



CHURCH of CHRIST

PASIR PANJANG



12 Jan 2020

2020 Year Theme:
Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

Worship Theme: Share God's promises of grace

Today's scripture texts: Isaiah 1:1, 10-20, 14; Heb 11:1-3, 8-16;
Psalm 50:1-8

Today in the Word - Devotion

They claim to know God, but by their actions they deny him. Titus 1:16

The prophet Isaiah received visions from the Lord during the reigns of four kings of Judah (approximately 740–698 B.C.). His visions are recorded in the book of Isaiah. Presumably, Isaiah 1 was written after the Assyrians ravaged the countryside of Judah, leaving only Jerusalem standing in 701 B.C. (Isa 1:7–9). By this point in Judah's history, those in power had developed a system of heavy economic burdens imposed upon the weak. Vulnerable people were denied justice and the religious practices of the day legitimized and perpetuated the injustices.

As we read Isaiah 1, we become like observers in a court of law. Today's reading is the Lord's indictment upon Judah. Pay attention to the emotions and tone of the passage: anger, displeasure, hostility, and intense frustration. Judah is sinful and estranged from God. They have rebelled against their Father (Isa 1:2); they are shamefully compared with animals (Isa 1:3); they instinctively do evil and have completely turned against the LORD (Isa 1:4). The "survivors" were the only hope of redemption from this sober situation (Isa 1:9).

Why is the Lord so outraged with His people? Let's look at Isa 1:10 through Isa 1:17. The people of Judah think they're fulfilling worship; but the Lord charges them with hypocritical worship (Isa 1: 13–14). Their sacrifices, prayers, and rituals are meaningless to God because their behaviour does not match up. Their "evil deeds" are identified as injustice, exploitation of the oppressed, and denying support to those without social safety nets (Isa 1:16–17). God does not mince words. This behaviour disgusts Him, reflects a sinful heart, and results in hollow worship.

Merely seeking justice is not necessarily a bonus to worship. Rather, pleasing worship is impossible apart from seeking justice. God calls for repentance and change and warns of the consequences of further disobedience (Isa 1:18–23).

APPLY THE WORD : Today's reading is a solemn reminder that God looks beyond church attendance and daily prayer. We cannot claim to worship God and then ignore—or participate in the oppression of—the vulnerable members of our society. True worship reflects His heart by seeking justice on their behalf. As you reflect on Isaiah 1, repent of ways in which you and your Christian community might be like Judah. Ask God to reveal injustice in your midst and align your heart with His through tangible action.

Our Vision
To Be A Vibrant, Growing Community Where Every Member Ministers to One Another



Equipped by Ministry Leaders

Supported by Mission Interest Groups & Partners

Reached out to by Care Teams

Our Mission
We are Called Out To...



Worship God

Testify to the Nations the Gospel

Make Disciples



12 Jan (Sun)
8.00 am & 11.00 am
Ong Chong Fatt
Isaiah 1:1, 10-20
9.30 am Bible Classes
6.00 pm
Gareth Chan
Philippians 3:10-14

13 Jan (Mon)
7.30 pm
Gladiolus Place
Devotion
Catherine Leow

13 – 17 Jan (SIBI Class)
Mon – Fri
9.00 am – 3.30 pm
Isaiah
Ong Chong Fatt

15 Jan (Wed)
7.30 pm
Wed Bible Class
Ecclesiastes
Lim Cher Yam

2020 Year Theme: Be Strong & Courageous!

= Joshua 1:9



When my daughter was 13 years old, Edwin Choy (founder of the Centre of Fathering) was promoting father and child bonding. That year there was an opportunity for me to experience this at PA Camp where there were several facilities with high elements. The first day I was there, I walked round the rock-climbing wall a few times. I knew I needed to give it a try with my enthusiastic daughter.

Next day, I got my opportunity when Chen Ting and I went to climb the wall.

There are basically three parts to climbing.

First, the rope safety and belay system; this is the promise of protection as you climb. The rope (specially made for climbing) is clipped onto your harness. It is run through several safety systems (PA Camp observed all the safeguards) before terminating with a person who is on "belay."

Second, you have the belay man. His presence gives you added confidence that if you slip and start to fall, he will stop it. He has to watch you at all times to make sure that as you climb, he takes up the slack in the rope so that your free fall is only a few feet before he initiates the safety and stops you with the rope.

Third, you have the rules. There are climbing instructions like "use your feet." "Keep your body profile as flat against the rock as possible." And there are safety instructions: "Don't get tangled in the rope." "Stay in the marked lane." "Wear your helmet; have the right shoes." And so on. The rules are either for your safety or to give you instruction on how to succeed.

Now, all of these are essential to overcome the one thing that will keep you from climbing: fear. At the PA Camp, the climbing wall is three storeys high. (I was concerned for Chen Ting, but she seemed to know no fear.) When I got to one point on my first climb that day, I looked down and was filled with anxiety, "Huh, that's a long way down if I fall right here." I did a quick survey of my equipment, the belay man and my lane and I checked the equipment for Chen Ting. Then both of us started climbing again.



One thing about climbing that is essential is courage. Right? All the right gear, all the safety instructions, all the climbing training mean nothing if you don't have the courage to ascend the wall. Fear is natural; courage isn't.

I was not sure how Chen Ting felt at that time because she seemed to be highly excited and fearless. I climbed the wall with confidence for three reasons. First, I had the promise of safety in the equipment. Second, I had the presence of the belay man (who was on top ; in fact, he was a little annoying at times because he was trying to direct me up the wall). Third, the precepts of climbing: I had the training and I knew the rules.

- Presence. Precepts. These are the essential ingredients to overcoming fear and having courage.

This year's 2020 theme is taken from Joshua 1. We will focus on the first 9 verses and touch on the rest. Joshua 1:1-9 is a prologue for the entire book. In it, we read of the call to conquer; the call to restart what had been on "pause." God lays out for Joshua all the important elements in order to successfully receive the promises of God.

This call of conquest demands courage. They are to arise and go to war with people who had scared the daylights out of a previous generation. Conquest and war create fear (as they should).

"What do you need in the face of God's call to obey?" That's the question our text answers. In Joshua 1:1-9, we have three answers. In order to be courageous, we need:

1. The promise of God
2. The presence of God
3. The precepts of God

In order to overcome our fears and have the courage to take hold of the promises of God, we need God's promise, God's presence and God's precepts for this year and beyond.





UPCOMING EVENTS

SING is held every **Saturday** afternoon from 2pm to 4pm at the church auditorium. Contact: Terilee or Dennis Law.

Prayer Warriors (PW) is held every **2nd & 4th Monday** of each month. Contact: Lim Lian Chye.

19 Jan (Sun)
GEMS Hour
10:45 am – 12.15 pm

8 Feb (Sat)
Elders' CNY Open House

27 Mar (Fri)
Ladies' Day

28 Mar – 2 May
Parenting Workshop

10 Apr (Fri)
Annual Advance
9 am – 12 pm



I attended Story of Redemption (a three-day seminar at Moulmein COC). Subsequently, Basil offered to share and study with me. The Story of Redemption gave me a chance to know more about God. This is what God has planned for me. God has knocked on my door, and changed my life, even before I believe in Him. I don't deserve it, but God loves me and saves me. Thank you, our Father for His love, and His Son, Jesus Christ our Saviour.

- May Chew

I've been attending PPCOC since Dec 2018. I had been to other churches previously but was not comfortable worshipping in mega churches or in the ones that worshipped with bands or performances. I prayed to God to direct me to a church which could help me grow spiritually and He answered my prayers by sending me to PPCOC.

I started off by attending Aunty Janet's classes. She was very patient and explained everything in detail. We were free to ask questions at any time and clarify our doubts. However, as I did not have any Bible background, it was hard for me to keep up with the more advanced students. Thankfully, Aunty Hong Ngee was also conducting Bible classes, but they were geared towards beginners. She also used a Mandarin video series which was easier to understand. As with Aunty Janet's classes, we were also encouraged to ask questions and have discussions. There was no time pressure because we did not have to complete the series within a set timeframe. This allowed me to learn at my own pace. After some time, I was ready to obey the Lord and was baptized in June 2019. Praise the Lord!

- Regina Liu



FEEDBACK on Church Matters



<http://bit.ly/2WjVL8x>

FAMILY NEWS & CONCERNS



12 January 2020

Joanne Deocampo - Pray to be more decisive, consistent, have strength and maturity in my walk with the Lord Jesus Christ.


Patrick - Pray for the India Mission Team, for God's favour and protection in His kingdom work from 10 - 20 Jan. (Team members: Simon & Wai Leng, Terilee, Grace M, Molly P, Keng Geok).

Michael Choo - Our Divine God will continue to bless our Leaders, Building Committee brethren, staff members, with strength, wisdom, inspiration, joy in handling the new building matters and finding a temporary place for us to worship God. Pray also that members will continue to encourage them. Thank you.

Our condolences to **Sis Molly Fang-Chew** on the demise of her mother on 5 Jan (Sun). Funeral was held on 11 Jan (Sat). Our condolences to **Bro Ong Boon Kiat** on the passing of his father on 6 Jan (Mon) in Malaysia.

Please pray for God's peace and comfort to be with Sis. Molly Fang-Chew and Bro. Ong Boon Kiat and the bereaved families on the loss of their loved ones.





GEMS HOUR

SUNDAY | JAN 19 | 10.45AM | CHURCH LOBBY


"Why Read The Bible?"

PROGRAMME



- Ice-Breaker
- Songs
- Opening Prayer
- Lesson
- Closing Prayer
- Craft Stations
- Refreshments

GEMS Hour caters to GEMS kids & teens.

Please register your interest with GEMS Parents Chatgroup to facilitate arrangements for Craft & Refreshments.



SEE WHAT GREAT LOVE THE FATHER HAS LAVISHED ON US, THAT WE SHOULD BE CALLED CHILDREN OF GOD AND THAT IS WHAT WE ARE!

1 JOHN 3:1

LAST SUNDAY



FACTS FIGURES



GF	\$ 9,034
MF YTD	\$ 117,999

GOAL



DATE: 12 Jan 2020

RE-BUILDING: A MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF PPCOC

Pledged Donations	S\$ 5,894,372
Pledged Loans *	S\$ 720,000
Ad-Hoc BF Donations <i>(Cumulative collection to date)</i>	S\$ 322,695
Pledges & Ad-Hoc BF Donations	S\$ 6,937,067
Amount to achieve \$8.7m goal	S\$ 1,762,933
Total Collection <i>(Pledges Fulfilled & Ad-Hoc BF Donations)</i>	S\$ 3,312,211

Note: * Pledged Loans to be repaid from 1 year after TOP

Send this FOCUS QR Code to an absent member



<https://bit.ly/2rxopUz>

Pledge & Building Fund Committee
Peter Lim
Jim Kawi
Grace Mariaraja

Elders
Simon Goh
Peter Lim
Lim Swee Aun
Ooi Boo Chye
Terry Wan

Deacons
Dennis Law
Lim Kok Hin
Vincent Lim

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Go to Internet browser link <http://welcome.ppcoc.org> via the Church WIFI to record your attendance