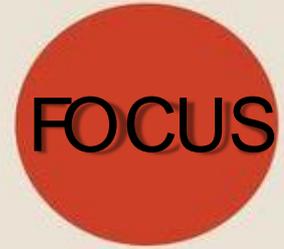




CHURCH of CHRIST
— PASIR PANJANG —



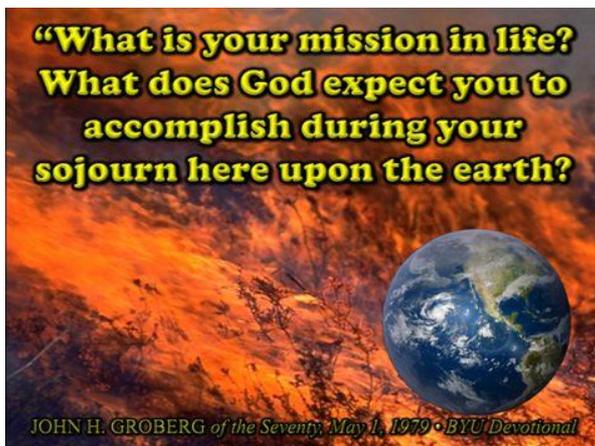
4 October 2020

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

Worship Theme:
You are Not Lacking

Today's scripture texts: 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 ; John 1:29-42; Psalm 40:1-11

In the readings this week, the mission of Christ is proclaimed and affirmed as we live out the message of the cross. The commitment to serve God is echoed in God's gifting of followers of Christ in God's church as is in Jesus' own ministry. And the psalmist also echoes this commitment to serve our Lord God.



In 1 Corinthians, Paul is writing to the church, not to individuals only, that the church will be unified in its mission and outlook. And it is as a body that they will fulfill their calling. That is the only way they can respond to the faithfulness of God. *Why? – "I may be lacking in all sorts of spiritual gifts, but we are not lacking in them."* And Paul argues, it is time to reclaim those gifts in the life and mission of the church.

The Gospel of John this week also holds Christ up for us as the example of one who is called, and one who has responded to that call, and is committed enough to make profound sacrifices in service to God, our Father. Like the first disciples, we need to respond and commit to the challenge of our Lord's Great Commission when we find ourselves being called.



Together with the psalmist, let us sing praises to God by echoing the hope of His ultimate glory!

EVENTS

Oct 18
Mission Sunday (Mission Workshop by Winston Chong at 9.30 AM)

Oct 25
PP 56th Anniversary

Online Bible Class & Worship
4 October
9.30 am Bible Class
The Parable of the Lost Coin
by Isaac Tay

11.00 am Worship
You are Not Lacking by
Simon Goh

Online Wed Bible Class 7 October
7.30 pm
The Book of Psalms
Teacher: Lim Cher Yam

Zoom Prayer Warriors
8.00 pm
Every 2nd & 4th Tue
Lim Lian Chye

Gladiolus Place Devotions
7.30 pm
Every 2nd & 4th Mon

Use this QR code to access
Online Worship



In-person Congregational Worship Service continues today (up to 50 persons maximum). Members who intend to worship in the church premises on Sunday are to register and submit the online form on the PPCOC website each week. You may also use the QR code on Page 4 of the FOCUS Newsletter.

You can join us in worship by going to www.ppcoc.org and click on our Online Worship under Resources tab or Quick Links. You can also check the Donate tab on how to make bank transfers to the church for tithes and offerings.

Coming together to worship as a church after 6 months, it really blew me away

by Gabriel Ong // September 3, 2020, 12:05 pm

4 October 2020

Last week, I went back to worship at the church building for the first time in nearly half a year with my wife, Cheryl.

We did it because we've been wanting to build up a bit of discipline in our lives and thought that the intentional rigor of getting ourselves to a physical building for church service would make for a great start.

I won't lie – there was certainly a lot of inertia. After I put our names down, it sank in that we wouldn't be able to watch the livestream whenever we wanted or pause the pastor at our convenience.

Instead, it meant things like having to punch in a bunch of personal details with the church's registry, travel (we're on the other end of the island) and observe the stringent social distancing practices on-site.

On the flip side, however, I also found myself looking forward to service all week. We were going back to church!

Stepping into the sanctuary, it all felt so...familiar. It was almost like coming home after my studies in Germany. I recognized most of it; only the furniture had been shifted around a little!

But having been accustomed to softly singing at Zoom recordings, I was unprepared for what transpired during worship. Sure, the set had also been pre-recorded earlier in the week for safety reasons, but that time of worship blew us away.

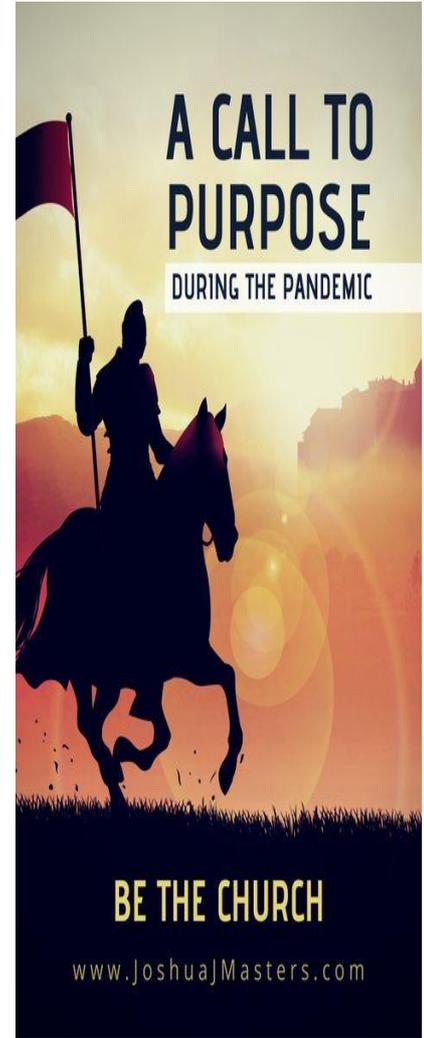
As we stood together, I caught a real glimpse of Paul's words in [Ephesians 5:19](#). We were speaking to one another with psalms, hymns and songs from the Spirit. We were singing and making music from our hearts to the Lord.

What did I learn that weekend? When everyone in the room wants to be in that room, it's a different room.

Because that week, we put aside our comfort and convenience and made the choice to go to the house of the Lord. It was as close to being a pilgrim as I've ever come.

I believe that intentionality was why that time of worship was just so special. As we drew near to God, He was faithful to His word and drew near to us.

That is why I just can't write this part of the article in a way that would actually do justice to the power, passion and presence we encountered in the sanctuary. You simply had to be there!



Even though we were all standing so far apart from each other, I had never felt so close and united to my church and congregation before.

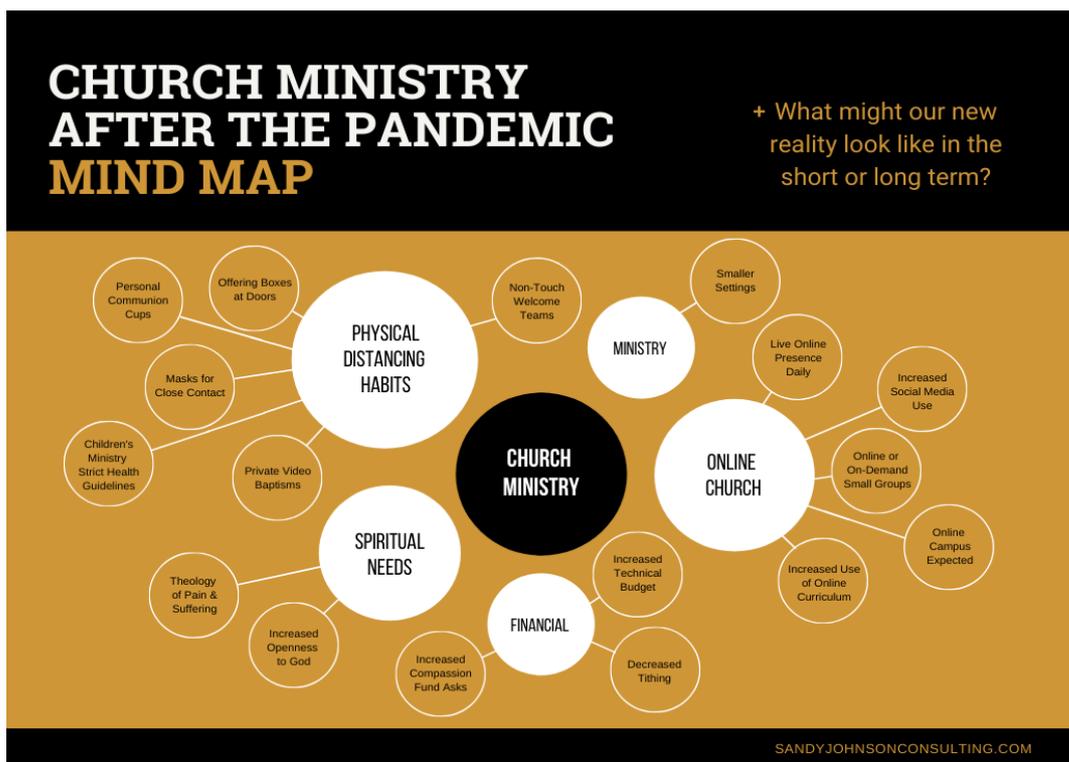
Certainly, Cheryl and I both agreed later that physically worshipping with our brothers and sisters again was the most memorable part of the service.

When everyone in the room wants to be in that room, it's a different room.

I know that quite a few church services will be restarting this weekend and in the months ahead.

We did a straw poll on our [Telegram channel](#) to get a feel of how many of you had churches that were resuming on-site services. You can check out the verdict [here](#), but, do note that this is by no means representative of official figures.

Continue to page 3



Continue from page 2 - **Coming together to worship as a church after 6 months, it really blew me away**

We also ran a similar poll on our [Instagram page](#).

As we all increasingly come to grips with life amid the coronavirus, now is a good time to cast away inertia and get back to the routine of worshipping in church if your physical services are restarting. As one of my favorite pastors says, discipline comes from delight. It's completely understandable if you have legitimate concerns like health or have elderly family members at home. But if you could go back to church, would you? As gently as I can put this: If there's little or no desire in us to want to come home to our church and meet brothers and sisters (perhaps even God?) whom we haven't seen in months... I think that's worrying for our faith. And for those of us whose churches still have no plans in the pipeline for physical services, let us keep the fire burning by not simply going through the motions each week during online service.

If my absence doesn't affect your life,
then my presence
has no meaning in it

Made by TheGoodVine.Co

Distance doesn't separate
people...
Silence does.

-Jeff Hod -

Start by thinking of some practical things we can do to bring an element of intentionality to our worship, like making plans with a few brothers and sisters to attend the online service together. Ask God for wisdom and creativity as you enjoy the Sabbath day with His family! As we approach the close of the year, let our lives look a little more like *Pilgrim's Progress* than pilgrims procrastinating. Let's [choose Christ's Church over our comfort](#), and discipline over indolence.

May our new normal be higher and holier – one that God would smile upon from heaven.

**BEARING GOOD NEWS AMID THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC
@ BUNGARIS CHURCH OF CHRIST, PONTIANAK**

The world is under threat of a giant virus which we call COVID-19, but the power of the Gospel is more gigantic as it can save people from the great threat of sin. Praise the Lord that, amid the pandemic, the Gospel can still be proclaimed so people can hear and obey it. Marianus, an evangelist at the church at Bungaris, shared the gospel with people residing near the church and recently baptized Pitriani and Hengki who have been studying the Word for a couple of weeks.

At this time, the church can still assemble on Sunday by maintaining physical distancing, practicing handwashing and checking temperature with thermometers.

All brethren at the Bungaris CoC are faithful and rejoice in the Lord greatly, even during this tough time. Brother Marianus, a devoted servant of God, is also eager to share the Word with everyone. Let us uphold them in our prayers so that this church will grow more and more and become a great blessing to everyone in the community.

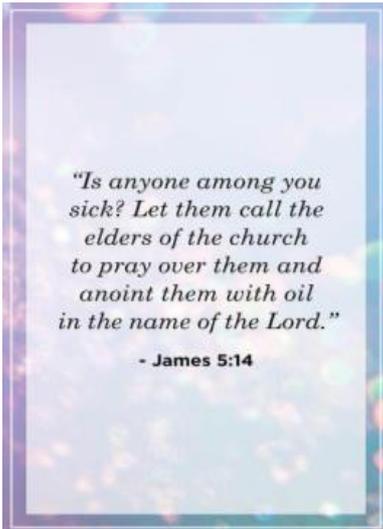


Pitriani and Hengki, who are students at the senior high school at Bungaris, are diligent in attending the worship and searching the Word. Please pray for their growth in faith and hope in Christ so that they may walk in the Light every day.

Mission mentor,
Herbin Simanjuntak



Family News, Concerns & Prayers

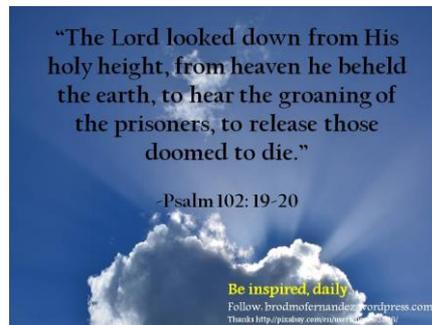


Thank God for healing Irvin's eyesight and enabling his eyes to recover completely. Uphold Joshua and Xin Tian in your prayers as they too have contracted conjunctivitis. Do pray for the family during this stressful period.

Hedy's mum – Lim Kong Lang (also known as Sister Tan) – from the Chinese congregation, is terminally ill and will be warded in Assisi Hospice on 5 October. Please pray for her, Hedy and the family.

Nuggets for our Souls by Lee Hock

Our God knows of every moment that we are experiencing. The psalmist wrote, "For He looked down from His holy height; from heaven the Lord gazed upon the earth, to hear the groaning of the prisoner, to set free those who were doomed to death" (Psalm 102:19-20).



Like those hurting in Psalm 102, we also face our struggles with groaning and despair. God sees our lives from the beginning to the end; our Lord is never caught off guard by the events that can blindsides us. The psalmist trusted that God's sovereignty will lead to an ultimate rescue that sets free even those "doomed to death" (Psa102:20, 27-28). In difficult moments like this, remember: we may not know what is coming next, but our Lord does. Be alert and mindful of Satan whispering doubts and fears in us to erode our trust in Jesus, as every difficult moment unveils and stretches out before us. Understanding this is easy, living it out requires the comforting help of the Holy Spirit. Ask and it shall be given to us according to His will.

SUNDAY GIVING

FACTS  FIGURES

27 September - \$7,801.00

WAYS TO GIVE

(C) Donate via PayNow (QRCode)

1. Scan the QR code using your mobile banking app
2. Verify that it shows:
Church of Christ PPG,
S76SS0008AGFD
3. Indicate your name in the "Reference No." (optional)
4. Enter the amount you wish to contribute
5. Click next, verify the details and confirm.



General Fund
UEN: S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund
UEN: S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund
UEN: S76SS0008ABFD

Church of Christ Pasir Panjang Sunday Worship Attendance

Please read and follow the instructions carefully. Failure to do so may make your registration void. Do this only once. Thank you for your cooperation.

Submission is open from **Monday** and the cut-off date/time for submission will be **Friday, 12 noon**, for the coming Sunday Worship Service.



<http://bit.ly/2Wk8Qg8>

FEEDBACK on
Church Matters



<http://bit.ly/38KH8wK>

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Peter Lim
Jim Kawi
Grace Mariaraja

Elders
Simon Goh
Peter Lim
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