



CHURCH of CHRIST
— PASIR PANJANG —



25 October 2020

2020 Year Theme:

Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:9

**Your
Quest
for
God**

Worship Theme:

God Gives the Growth by Swee Aun at 11 AM

Text: 1 Corinthians 3:1-9; Matthew 5:21-37; Psalm 119:1-8

**A QUEST FOR THE BEGINNING
AND THE END**

While we may be ending a long month of celebrating PP's 56th Anniversary this Sunday, let us not forget that God calls us to walk in ways that lead to life and abundance. Am I loyal, brave, and true?

Paul reminds us that God alone gives the growth. For Paul, it is about growing into a spiritual maturity that no longer needs competitive factions to feel secure and "righteous". Paul calls the Corinthians to recognise that all of God's servants (especially elders and heads of the flock who are servants of God) are just that – a people doing a job for God's kingdom. It is important to not align oneself with a particular person, leader or idea, but to follow God's constant work of growth into becoming a loyal, brave and true Christ follower.

Jesus calls for a deeper, more faithful understanding of God's laws. For Christ, belief and true religion is not about ticking off a few laws in a box of obedience, but is doing the work of the heart, of checking the real impact of our purpose in our relationships.

As a life of integrity is blessed, the psalmist pleads with God for the ability to live a life of obedience to His commands.

Hence, let us embrace the quest to reflect God's grace, God's goodness and God's integrity that is the heart of this week's call.

As we read the Word, psalm, and songs to one another, let us make melody in our heart unto the Lord!

EVENTS

25 Oct

PP 56th Anniversary

9.30 am Online Bible Study on "The Parable of the Unjust Steward" by Lee Hock

11.00 am Live Stream

Worship

"God Gives the Growth" by Swee Aun

28 Oct

Online Wed Bible Class

7.30 pm

The Book of Psalms
"The Way of the Fool" by Vincent Lim

Zoom Prayer Warriors

8.00 pm

Every 2nd & 4th Tue
Lim Lian Chye

Gladiolus Place Devotions

7.30 pm

Every 2nd & 4th Mon

He calls me



*beautiful
one*

THOUGH I FALL
I
WILL
Rise again
MICAH 7:8

Use this QR code to access
Online Worship



In-person Congregational Worship Service continues today (up to 100 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 via <http://bit.ly/2Wk8Qg8>

You can join us in worship by going to www.ppcoc.org and click on 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.

Prayer Requests and Thanksgiving

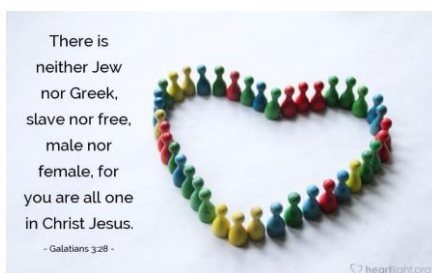
1. Our deepest condolences to brother David Yee on the demise of his beloved mother, Mdm Kwan Yu Ee on 19 October. The funeral service was held on 21 October. Pray for God's peace and comfort to be with David Yee and his family during this time of sorrow and loss. From David Yee and family: "We would like to thank the church for your prayers and encouragement at the demise of our dear mother. We are touched by the love of brothers and sisters who came to visit and those who sent sweet messages to us. May our Lord bless the church with bountiful love and blessings."
2. Our deepest condolences to sister Doris Ang (from the Chinese congregation) on the demise of her beloved mother, Mdm Yit Ah Pin, who graduated to glory on 20 October. The funeral service was held on 22 October. Pray for the family during this time of grief.
3. Pray for God's favour to be upon Beng Kim (Kim Lay and Beng Chuan's brother) for his brain surgery as doctors drain the blood clot in his head.
4. Sister Hedy Wong would like to convey her family's appreciation to all members for their visits and words of encouragement during their recent bereavement when their mother went home to be with the Lord.

Jesus and the Woman of Samaria

Lee Hock

The Samaritan woman whom Jesus met at the well had to face discrimination. The Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans.

When Jesus asked her for a drink, she said, "You are a Jew & I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?" (John 4:9) As she began to open up to Jesus, she had a life-changing experience that positively moved her. In John 4:39-42, Jesus became the bridge that broke the wall of hostility & favouritism. The lure to discriminate is real and we need to identify it in our lives. As Jesus has shown us, we can reach out to all people regardless of nationality, social status, or reputation. Jesus came to build bridges and break down the wall of discrimination. The gospel is for all and it has no boundaries.



SUNDAY GIVING

FACTS  FIGURES

18 October - \$69,126.51

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.



Church of Christ Pasir Panjang Sunday Worship Attendance

Starting today, a maximum of 100 persons is allowed for the In-person Congregational Worship Service every Sunday. Members who intend to worship in the church premises must register before Friday noon for successful balloting.

Registration 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>

Pledge & Building Fund Committee
Peter Lim
Jim Kawi
Grace Mariaraja

Elders
Simon Goh
Peter Lim
Lim Swee Aun
Terry Wan

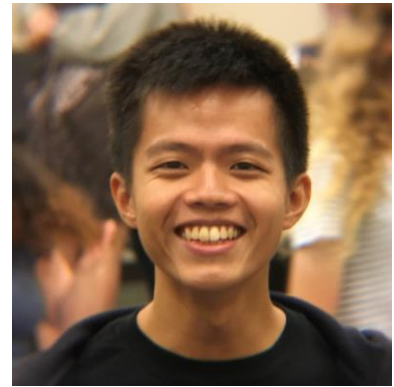
Deacons
Dennis Law
Lim Kok Hin
Vincent Lim

Ministers
Patrick Ong 82005250
eMail: patrickong@ppcoc.org
Beng Chuan 96393008
eMail: tanbengchuan@ppcoc.org

Missions Is More Than Evangelism

John Lim

I was 13 years old when I embarked on my maiden overseas mission trip. Since about 2006, the youth ministry has been conducting an annual two-week trip to the little village of Taribubu, nestled in the heart of Cagayan Valley, Philippines. It is like a “rite of passage” for all youth members, which helps them develop the spirit of service.



The team that I went with comprised sixteen youths and several adult chaperones, led by a university-age Irvin Wan (can you believe it?). I had the honour of being the team’s youngest member and was excited to have my first taste of teenage independence – in a limited way, because my parents were the chaperones and my cousin was the team leader.

Though the trip itself was held during the December holidays, the “mission” really began five months prior. We learned worship songs that we performed in front of hundreds of school children and in the dimly lit house of a dying man. We learned skits and crafts for Vacation Bible School (VBS) to tell stories of God’s power and love to people who probably had never heard them before. As a team, we bonded through the long hours. We laughed when we forgot our lines when rehearsing the skit. We had countless packets of West Coast Market chicken rice together on the Sundays after church. So I, a clueless Secondary 1 student, found a community which I gladly belonged to. They were people of my generation who loved the Lord and one another above all else.

During the trip, although we had prepared to share with the locals, they were the ones who shared everything they had with us. People say that “they blessed us more than we blessed them”, and it is 150% true. We presented songs and skits, and they responded in radiant joy. We taught Bible lessons and stories while they showed us how they lived lives of true faithfulness in the rhythms of agriculture. We brought donations from Singapore for them while they invited us into their homes and offered us the best they had.

We often think of missions and mission trips as giving the gospel to others. This fills us with fear and dread because we do not know how they might respond. What if we thought of missions as receiving and participating in God’s blessings? There is definitely sacrifice involved, but what we get in return when we say “yes” to God is even better. We come out from it fuller than we went in, and that allows us to give again.

Light of the World

Joel Kweok

My memory is fuzzy but I remembered how I felt. I was scared and a little anxious. I was 13 years old and on my first mission trip to Tuao. We were doing home bible study and I was tasked with sharing a devotion on Suffering to one of the homes. I was relieved when I finished, and when I looked at my listeners, they beamed at me and were very glad that I shared a portion of God's word. We sang a few songs, prayed for them, and continued with the day.



This memory has stuck with me since then and puzzled me as a teenager on how my message could have made such a difference. Looking back, the situation was frankly quite ridiculous. I was a 13-year-old city boy sharing a message on Suffering to a village couple. These villagers have probably weathered and stood firm against many more life challenges. What insight could I have had as a city boy about suffering that gave them such joy?

I came to realize the significance of the mission team's presence to these villagers. Tuao was a village that did not have a strong Christian presence. The church was miles from the city and the Christian community in the village was not big. This meant it was hard to get mutual Christian support. This support is especially important when events like natural disasters strike and wipe out the crops, which makes it hard to believe that there is a God who loves us.

The real value of a mission team is not the physical resources that bring relief but, rather, hope. When the villagers see that others are living the same faith and believing in the same God, they have hope. They have hope that there is a better future and that the sufferings they face are temporal.

It has been 10 years since I last went on that trip. Ever since that trip, I would set aside a small sum of my allowance to give on Mission Sunday. However, over the years, the memory of the trip has faded and subsequently, the reason to give has too. Living in comfortable and prosperous Singapore, we are blessed with plenty. As the years go by, it becomes increasingly hard to relate to the situation in Tuao.

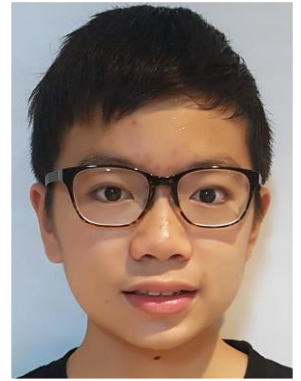
As I write this today, I hope to not only relive the memory I had 10 years ago, but also to encourage others to remember the reason we give. The funds that go into Mission Sunday create opportunities for teams, provide resources for others in the world, and plant the seed of hope. This is especially important in this time of crisis, where it is easy to think that God does not exist or that God does not love us. However, we know this is not true as He has prevailed countless times in our lives and will continue to do so.

While this message of hope is clear to us, it may not be for those who have not heard the gospel or where the influence of Christianity is weak. Let us all rally together, unite as one body of Christ, and give as God has given us.

"You are the light of the world. A town built on a hill cannot be hidden. Neither do people light a lamp and put it under a bowl. Instead they put it on its stand, and it gives light to everyone in the house." (Mathew 5: 14-15)

Mission Trip Reflection

Aaron Tan



What is the first thing that comes to mind when you come across the term "mission trip"? Rebuilding houses? Feeding the poor? Helping the needy?

You are not wrong. When the 17 of us went to Tuao, we were on a mission to make lives better. We helped the locals rebuild their relationships with God, shared with them our little wisdom and gave what we had. While helping those in need of the Word, we also realized we were the ones that needed help too as we have fallen short of His glory. The faithfulness and humble stories of the locals made me realize how little faith I had in God. Some of them faced poverty, natural disasters and diseases and yet, their faith in Him was so strong and unshaken. Their examples encouraged me to work on my relationship with God.

On top of that, the youths and the chaperons spent many days together in preparation for the trip. This enabled us to create stronger bonds far beyond Sunday church or huddles, and allowed us to share our burdens and our walk with Christ more openly.

Many of the participants will remember this clearly in their minds. On the third last day of the trip, a family of rice farmers shared that the village was facing a two-month drought and asked for prayers for rain as their supplies were running critically low. We prayed with them for rain and it rained the following day. From this, I learnt that prayer alone with the Lord is powerful. Prayer with the community is even more powerful as stated in Matthew 18:20 – “For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them.”

Mission trips are not just about helping others. They are also about helping you in your relationship with God! We share the great news of the Bible!

Stay at home with God

Wang Yeli

My experience of working from home began a bit earlier than most people in Singapore. In late January 2020, I visited my parents in Nanjing, China during the Chinese New Year (CNY) season. It was not long after the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak took place in Wuhan, and the whole city of Nanjing was locked down. Therefore, my 2-week CNY vacation was spent at home with my parents without going anywhere or visiting anyone.



At the beginning of February, due to the travel restriction, many flights from China to Singapore were cancelled. On 4 February, I returned to Singapore as I planned, feeling grateful that my flight was one of the very few that had not been cancelled during that week. However, the stay-at-home notice (SHN) order had been enforced in Singapore, and I had to stay at home for another two weeks, albeit alone this time. I felt quite lonely and bored during these two weeks. I can barely remember how I survived but vividly recall how blissful I felt the day I could finally return to the office. I enjoyed talking with my colleagues, which made me realise that being able to interact with people is a major source of happiness in my daily life.

However, the happiness did not last long. In April, when the circuit breaker began, I started to work from home, like most people working in the non-essential services. Having already experienced staying at home alone and knowing exactly how I would feel, I decided to change my mindset. I prayed to God to change my perspective if I could not change the situation, and to help me enjoy this experience with joy and peace.

God answered my prayer in an interesting way. He first asked me to equip myself with knowledge to cope effectively. I work as a research scientist, and around that time, my supervisor asked me to work on a new project to understand the emotional responses and factors affecting mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. Through analyzing a large amount of data, we found that self-coping strategies (e.g. longer rest, more frequent physical activity, engaging in hobbies), family and social support are key factors (with statistical significance) to improve mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic. These findings helped me to actively adopt coping strategies consisting of adequate rest, exercise, and connecting with friends and family daily to take care of my mental health.


God also gave me more time and quietness to spend time with Him (to read scriptures, pray, meditate) and reflect on myself and my relationship with Him. This experience taught me that I always have a choice when I am in a difficult situation – I could either stay with my negative emotions, or I can actively seek God, go through the situation, and become stronger. My experience taught me that the latter is always the better choice. I also learned a precious lesson that God is the source of everything – joy, peace, accompany, and comfort. Before this year, whenever I had problems, I would always go to my spiritual mentors for help – either for consultation or for a listening ear.

However, when things happened during the circuit breaker period, it was less convenient to talk to them face-to-face, and so I tried to seek help from God instead. I remember that I was extremely angry and sad over two incidents. One was that my relocation to the U.S. for work has been further postponed after waiting for 3 years, and the other was that I was wronged by my friend. After realizing my negative emotions, I actively sought God by praying, reading scriptures, praising Him, and asking for His strength and help. I was incredibly surprised at the rate of my emotional recovery, and the joy and peace that I had received transcended all my understanding. I further learned that God does not owe me anything, and I should respect God's boundaries when He answers my prayers by saying "no" or "wait". I should not withdraw my love, and should instead respect His decisions, just as how He respected mine when I said "no" to what He asked me to do. After all, His "no" or "wait" is meant to bless me with His plan that is accompanied by hope and a future.

"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." (Jeremiah 29:11 NIV)

I am very grateful for this work-from-home experience as I spend time by myself and in the presence of God. I was able to declutter a lot of things in my life that I thought I wanted previously, and now I am living a much simpler life with more focus and happiness. Although I still agree that being able to interact with people is an important part of happiness, I now find that having God in my life is the fundamental source of happiness. I am thankful for God's help in changing my perspectives so that I can really enjoy working from home now with great joy and peace, and I would like to encourage brothers and sisters with the following scripture: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7 NIV) I hope all of you will stay safe and enjoy the joy, peace, and countless blessings from God.





God is Faithful

- 1 Corinthians 1:9 "God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."
- 1 Corinthians 10:13 "God is faithful; He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, He will also provide a way out so that you can endure it."
- 1 Thessalonians 5:23-24 "May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it."