

# FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST  
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

## Sunday Morning Worship



3 October 2021

### Crossroad

By Lim Swee Aun  
Live @ 11am

When our Lord said that his followers would have to "take up their cross" to follow him, he was not advertising employee benefits or job perks. He was telling them, "Come and suffer shame with me. Come and feel unbearable pain. Be abandoned by everyone you know. Let other people think that you are a total failure. That's how you become my disciple."

Having known the story of Jesus, we stand at a crossroad; we have a choice to make. We could run away from shame and suffering and make a comfortable earthly life for ourselves. Or we could walk the way of Jesus, struggling under the weight of the heavy cross, in the hope that following Him will be worth it at the end.

Which road will we choose today, and every day of our lives?

# COVID-19 Guidelines

This week, we resume in-person worship services. We will be doing so cautiously in accordance with government guidelines. Please take note of the following:

- You must be fully vaccinated to attend in-person worship (unvaccinated children under 12 years old are allowed to attend).
- Members above 60 years old are encouraged to reconsider attending to reduce social interactions.
- All Bible Classes will remain online until 10 October. Please contact your individual coordinators for meeting details and times.

We all grieve that our full resumption of church and family life will be pushed back further, and for the pains that our nation feels. However, we remain hopeful because the Lord remains Sovereign over all things. Let us pray continually for the end of the pandemic, and that the name of Jesus be glorified all the same.

## Giving

Last week's contribution: **\$8,952**



General Fund  
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund  
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund  
S76SS0008ABFD

# Sunday Bible Classes



**3 October | 9:30am**

*\*All Bible Classes will be held online via livestream / Zoom until 10 October*

## **Adult Bible Class**

"Radically Changed by the Gospel"

1 Thessalonians 1:1-3

By Lim Cher Yam

## **GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)**

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)

## **Youth Bible Class**

"Rethinking Biblical Friendships"

The Company We Keep

Contact John Lim (8689 2008)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)**

"Elisha and the Army"

2 Kings 6:8-23

Contact Josephine Seow

(9170 4343)

## **FFF Bible Class**

Online Discussion

Contact Dorothy Tay (9363 1260)

## **GEMS Bible Class (P123)**

"Jesus is Alive!"

Mk 16:1-3; Jn 20:1-8; Mt 28:1-15

Contact Eunice Chen (9176 1667)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)**

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

## **GEMS Bible Class (P456)**

"Saul Anointed King of Israel"

1 Sam 10-11

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)

## **GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)**

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

# Upcoming Events



## **Monday, 4 Oct | PP'22 Dialogue - YA #1**

**Zoom @ 8pm**

**ID: 822 3488 8306**

**Password: Theme2022**



## **Wednesday, 6 Oct | Bible Class**

**Livestream @ 7:30pm**

**"Grow In Grace" (2 Peter 3:14-18)**

**By Lim Cher Yam**



## **Saturday, 9 Oct | PP'22 Dialogue - YA #2**

**Zoom @ 2pm**

**ID: 822 3488 8306**

**Password: Theme2022**



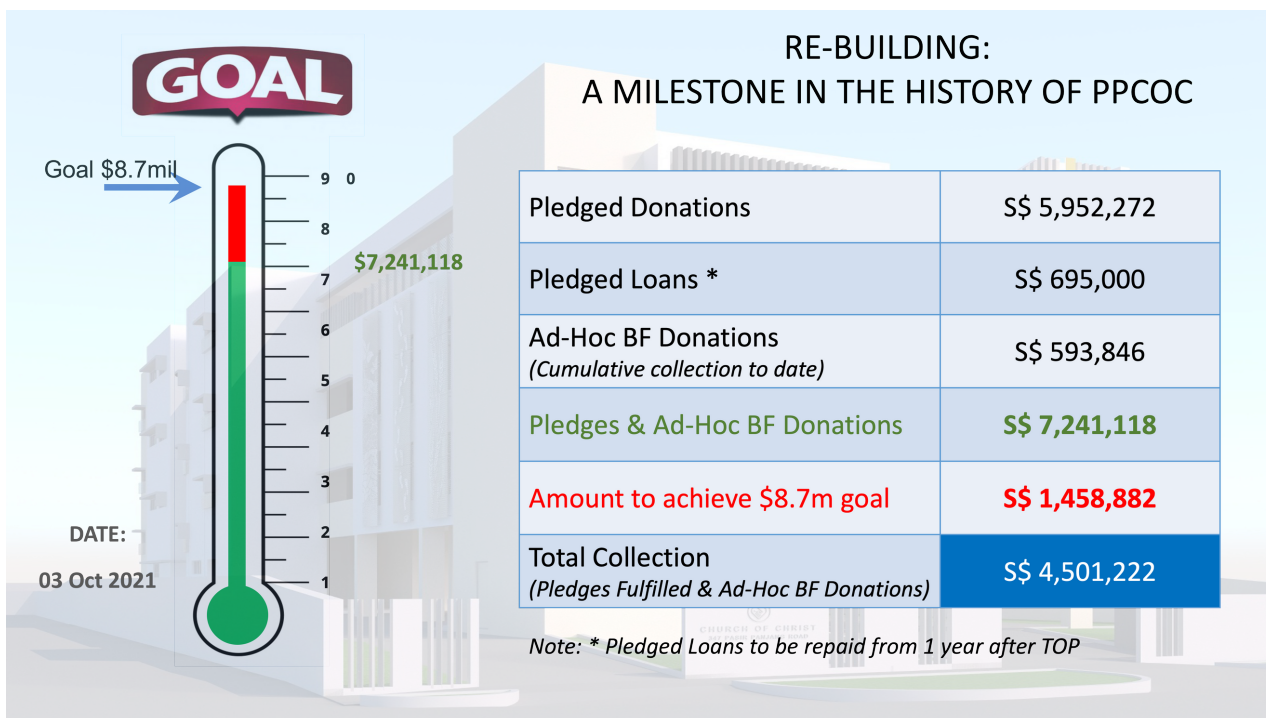
## **Sunday, 10 Oct | Worship**

**"Humanity's Mission Statement"**

**By John Lim**



## Rebuilding Pledge Progress



## Online Prayer Warriors | 30 Sept

### New Prayer Requests

#### **Local Missions (Theme)**

1. Gladiolus Place Ministry
2. Women's Prison Ministry
3. FFF Ministry
4. Migrant Workers' Ministry (GreyForm Project etc)
5. New areas - Boy's Home & Men's Prison Ministry
6. PPCOC Local Missions' strategy – Media, Connection & Equipping

### New Prayer Requests

1. Germaine Png's relocation to Berlin
2. Demise of Lourdes' mum
3. Terry & Emily's recovery from COVID
4. Mdm Pang's recovery from fall
5. Jhun Ma's family's recovery from COVID
6. Lim Li Choan's health
7. Charles & Tamara Cook's well-being
8. Health of members in Nursing Homes
9. Lydia's friend Lu Xiandao's recovery from COVID & family well-being
10. Clarita's ear infection & migraine
11. Sis Lim's heart problem and safety

### Updates on Past Prayers

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| 1. Students taking PSLE, N, O & A Levels | 5. Virginia's son's recovery from COVID        |
| 2. Jenny Tan's health                    | 6. Wai Leng's cataract operations              |
| 3. Farida's relatives' well-being        | 7. Angie Loh's cancer treatment                |
| 4. See Mui's friend's health             | 8. Beng Chuan's friend Wang's cancer treatment |

We had a wonderful session of prayer this past Thursday evening, praying for areas of local missions that PP is involved in. Add these to your own prayer list and join us in prayer!



## PP '22 Dialogues | Monday & Saturday

This week's Dialogue sessions will focus on the Young Adults ministry. We will meet on Zoom on Monday at 8pm and Saturday at 2pm. Some questions to be thinking about:



- ➔ In what ways have you seen God working in your lives?
- ➔ In what ways would you like to continue growing in faith?
- ➔ What were some activities/initiatives that blessed you in 2021 that you'd like to see in 2022?



## Missions Month Highlights



### Online Resource Portal

If you have not done so already, visit [thenconsulting.com](https://thenconsulting.com) for inspiring testimonies and missions-related content.



### SIBI Missions Course (4-16 Oct)

Brother John Then will be teaching a two-week course on Missions with SIBI. Contact dean Terry Harrison (8256 9738) to join the class via Zoom.



### Missions Sunday Seminar (24 Oct)

John Lim and Shawn Li will lead our Missions Sunday Seminar. We will explore the biblical theology of local missions, be inspired by exemplary stories from the COVID period, and dream as a church for the future of missions.



### PP Anniversary & Homecoming (31 Oct)

We celebrate our 56th year of God's faithfulness to PPCOC! We welcome members, new and old, to join us on this special occasion!



## 1 Thessalonians

*Overview by Lim Cher Yam*

### Thessalonica: The City and The Church

Thessalonica was a bustling seaport city, an important centre for communication and trade, located at the junction of the great Ignatian Way. It was the largest city in Macedonia in the first century and was also the capital of its province. Today it is known as Salonika, the second largest city of modern Greece and an important seaport.

The background of the Thessalonian church is found in Acts 17:1-10. Paul, Silas, and Timothy arrive at Thessalonica after leaving Philippi. Paul preaches Jesus as the Christ at the Jewish synagogue in Thessalonica for several weeks. Some are persuaded, together with many devout Greeks, but as opposition from the Jews develops, Paul leaves the synagogue to establish a congregation composed primarily of Gentiles.

But the Jewish leaders, envious of Paul, succeed in stirring up a mob demanding that Paul and Silas be expelled from the city. In order to keep peace, the city leaders extract promises and bonds from Jason, a prominent member of the church, requiring that Paul and Silas will not return to Thessalonica.



# NEW Sunday Bible Class Series

## Author, Date, and Place of Writing

After leaving Thessalonica, Paul goes first to Athens, then to Corinth, where he enjoys a successful 18-month ministry. During this time, Timothy visits Thessalonica and brings back good reports to Paul about the church as well as its problems. 1 Thessalonians was probably written from Corinth in the later part of AD 50 or 51, and 2 Thessalonians a few months later.

Both external and internal evidence (1:1; 2:18) support the view that Paul wrote 1 Thessalonians from Corinth; (3:1-2). Paul's known characteristics of care and concern for the churches are apparent in the letter (3:1-2, 8-11 compared with Acts 15:36; 2 Cor 11:28).

## Purpose

Paul had left Thessalonica abruptly (see Acts 17:5-10) after a rather brief stay. Recent converts from paganism (1:9) were thus left with little external support in the midst of persecution. Paul's purpose in writing this letter was to encourage the new converts in their trials (3:3-5), to give instruction concerning godly living (4:1-12) and to give assurance concerning the future of believers who die before Christ returns (4:13-18).

Impressed by the faithfulness of the Thessalonians in the face of persecution, Paul wrote to encourage the Christians that they would continue to grow in godliness. Paul knew that the people had been exposed to errant teachings from those in opposition to the way of Jesus Christ and the grace of God. Paul also understood that unless the young church continued to mature in its faith, the danger would only increase over time.

With that in mind, Paul taught the people that any spiritual growth would ultimately be motivated by their hope and anticipation of the return of Jesus Christ. Paul was never interested in simply telling people to pull themselves up, for he knew that what ultimately inspired change was a life consistently walking in the power of God's



# NEW Sunday Bible Class Series

Spirit. So to a group of young Christians struggling with their faith amidst uncertainties, Paul offered the hope of future security in Christ to motivate them to godly living.

## Theme

Although the thrust of the letter is varied, the subject of eschatology (doctrine of last things) seems to be predominant in both Thessalonian letters. Every chapter of 1 Thessalonians ends with a reference to the second coming of Christ, with chapter 4 giving it major consideration (1:9-10; 2:19-20; 3:13; 4:13-18; 5:23-24). Thus, the second coming seems to permeate the letter and may be viewed in some sense as its theme.

## Applications

Do you ever feel as though your Christian faith has grown stale, that you are withering on the vine when you would rather be flourishing in His service? Paul's first letter to the Thessalonians is the perfect remedy for such a feeling. Its focus on Christ's return provides water for the thirsty soul today, encouraging growth in maturity by providing hope in the midst of suffering and uncertainty.

Paul's specific, practical instruction for this process of sanctification can be applied directly to our current circumstances. By clinging to our hope in Christ, we may see several clear results in our lives: avoiding sexual immorality, refusing to defraud others, appreciating those Christians who serve on your behalf, refusing to repay evil for evil, rejoicing always, praying without ceasing, and giving thanks in all things, to name a few (1 Thessalonians 4:3-7; 5:12-23).

This list, of course, is not exhaustive, but the first letter to the Thessalonians makes clear that every Christian should expect to grow in holiness over the course of his or her life on earth while patiently awaiting the return of our Lord.

# Connect With Us

## Prayer Requests/ Feedback



<http://bit.ly/35FTEyp>



## Meet Our People

### Elders

Simon Goh	8833 0899
Peter Lim	9274 5457
Lim Swee Aun	9335 9955
Terry Wan	9845 2878

### Deacons

Dennis Law	9681 1068
Lim Kok Hin	9679 6027
Vincent Lim	9451 7382

### Ministers

Tan Beng Chuan	9639 3008
Patrick Ong	8200 5250
John Lim	8689 2008

### Pledge and Building Fund Committee

Peter Lim	9274 5457
Jim Kawi	9825 8792
Grace Mariaraja	9060 7585