

FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

Sunday Morning Worship



16 January 2022

You Are Salt & Light

By Kenneth Kuek
Live @ 11am

As a kid, I (John) loved eating white rice with soy sauce (I also got chubby, which I didn't like so much). We all love food that has that "something special" added on, a different and distinct flavour that makes it pop.

Jesus calls us to be salt: small in proportion to the food it is applied to, but able to preserve it so that it doesn't go bad. He also calls us to be light in dark places, to shine God's radiant life into the world just as Christ Himself is the original Light of the World.

As Christians, we might be a relative minority in our schools and workplaces and even in our families. Yet that is precisely where we live out our purpose as different people to preserve the truth and goodness in this world.

Sunday Morning Worship

Order of Worship

Call To Worship	I Want To Be Where You Are
Scripture: Psalm 119:33-40	Scripture: Matthew 5:13-16
Praise The Lord	Sermon
The Law Of The Lord	This Little Light Of Mine
Opening Prayer	Announcements
What The Lord Has Done In Me	Shepherd's Prayer
Communion (Galatians 2:20)	Jesus Hold My Hand
Giving (Matthew 5:16, Acts 20:35)	Congregational Response

Reflection Questions

- 1 What are the characteristics/traits of a person that has had a strong influence on your life?
- 2 What images come to mind when you think of someone regarded as “salt of the earth”? What role does Scripture play in a person being salt and light to the world? (Ps 119)
- 3 In what ways does Jesus model salt and light in his life and ministry? What qualities do you expect someone to have if they are acting as salt and light?
- 4 What would it look like for you to be salt and light to one person in your circle of influence this week? How can you make that happen?

COVID-19 Guidelines

We have resumed in-person worship services and Bible Classes. Please take note of the following:

- You must be fully vaccinated to come to church.
- Unvaccinated children under 12 years old are allowed to attend.
- In-person Adult, Youth and GEMS Bible Classes have resumed. FFF will remain online until further notice.
- We are allowed to sit in zones of 100 and in groups of up to five.

Giving

Last Week's Giving: **\$13,254**



General Fund
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund
S76SS0008ABFD

Upcoming Events



16 Jan | 9:30am

Adult Bible Class

"The Day Of The Lord Part 1"

2 Thessalonians 2

By Isaac Tay

Youth Bible Class

"Everything Is Not What It Seems"

Gospel of Mark

Contact John Lim (8689 2008)

FFF Bible Class

Church Organisation -

Deaconship

By Seah Siow Hwee

~~Contact Dorothy Tay (9363 1260)~~

GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)

GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)

"Names Of God"

Contact Josephine Seow (9170 4343)

GEMS Bible Class (P123)

"Jesus Heals The Man Born Blind"

John 9:1-41

Contact Joanne Foo (9683 8266)

GEMS Bible Class (P456)

"Love Your Enemies"

Matthew 5:28-48 (Sermon On The Mount)

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)



19 Jan | 7:30pm

Wednesday Bible Class

"The New You" (Eph 4:17-24)

By Lim Lian Chye

Zoom Sharing @ 8:30pm



21 Jan | 6:30pm

Youth Huddle

Various homes



Support for Typhoon Rai/Odette



Thank you to all who contributed funds to support the relief efforts in the aftermath of Typhoon Rai/Odette in the Philippines. We have collected \$8,551 on top of \$2000 already sent by the church.



PPCOC Young Adults Quarterly Activity



Join us for a volunteer session at

Willing Hearts Soup Kitchen



Interested in giving your time and effort to help the needy?
We're organising a session to help with preparation of ingredients, cooking, packing of lunch boxes, washing and cleaning.

Date and time: Saturday, 29 January 2022, 12 noon - 4pm

Address: 11 Jalan Ubi Blk 6, #01-51 Kembangan-Chai Chee Community Hub, S409074

Willing Hearts operates a soup kitchen that prepares, cooks and distributes about 11,000 daily meals to over 70 locations island-wide, 365 days a year. Beneficiaries include the elderly, the disabled, low income families, and migrant workers in Singapore.

Sign up using the Google Forms link by 23 January 2022! Contact Geraldine (82688267) or Charmaine (96252950) if you have any questions. National safe management measures apply.

Click on the poster for the Google form!



Celebrating David Finch (click link for more)



David Lee Finch (方大卫), 64, devoted father and minister, died at home in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, surrounded by family on Friday, January 7, 2022.

Several PP members knew him as the stalwart missionary to China (who speaks better Mandarin than many of us!). He helmed a retreat for Chinese church leaders and members for the past 5 years.

Dave was born in Texas City, Texas and met his wife Vicky while studying wildlife management at the Ohio State University.

They moved to Texas, where he studied at Sunset International Bible Institute, and later married. They felt that the Lord had called them to serve in Africa, but “God had something else in mind,” as Dave wrote, sending them to “share the gospel with the Chinese people of the world.”

They studied Mandarin and welcomed their first child in 1985, moving to Taipei, Taiwan, two months later. They served in Taipei for 11 years and welcomed two more children. Later, they continued in ministry, moving to Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

He built others up. He made his investments in the next generation. He poured himself into practicing discipleship and found great joy in equipping others for ministry. He cheered the Buckeyes with his wife and hiked with friends or made them along the way.

Dave felt “blessed and privileged to see a multitude of lives changed into the image of Christ.” He fought a determined battle with cancer and is survived by his wife of 39 years, Vicky, and a host of beloved family members.

Family News (Rebuilding)



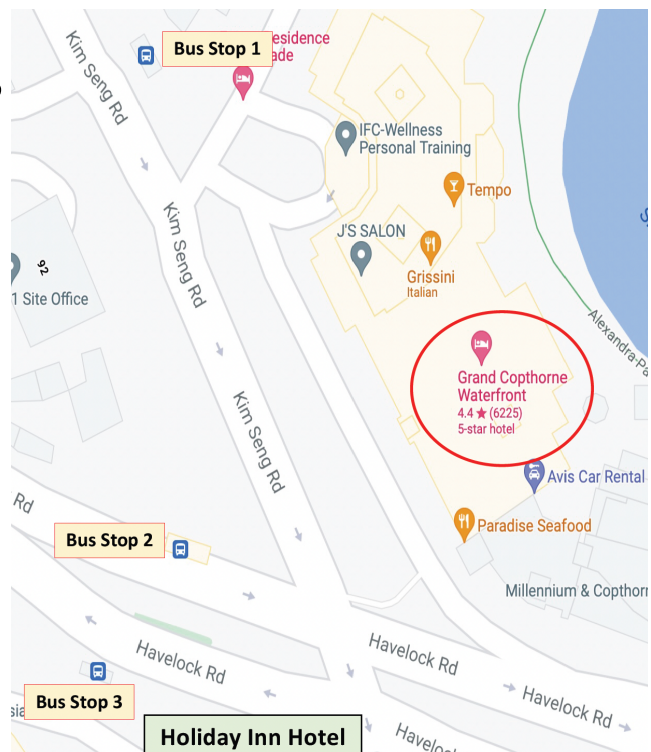
From Bus Stop 1:
5, 16, 16M, 75, 175, 195, 195A, 970, NR5

From Bus Stop 2:
51, 64, 123, 186

From Bus Stop 3:
1N, 2N, 3N, 4N, 5N, 6N, 51, 64, 186

New MRT station (TE16 Havelock)
expected to open in 2022 beside
Holiday Inn.

Ample car park space @ Hotel!



Family News (Rebuilding)



Recruitment of Resident Technical Officer

The church is looking for a full time Resident Technical Officer (RTO) for the project. Interested applicants may find the job scope, required experience and qualifications by scanning the QR code.



Interested applicants are to submit their CV and working experience by 31 Jan 2022.

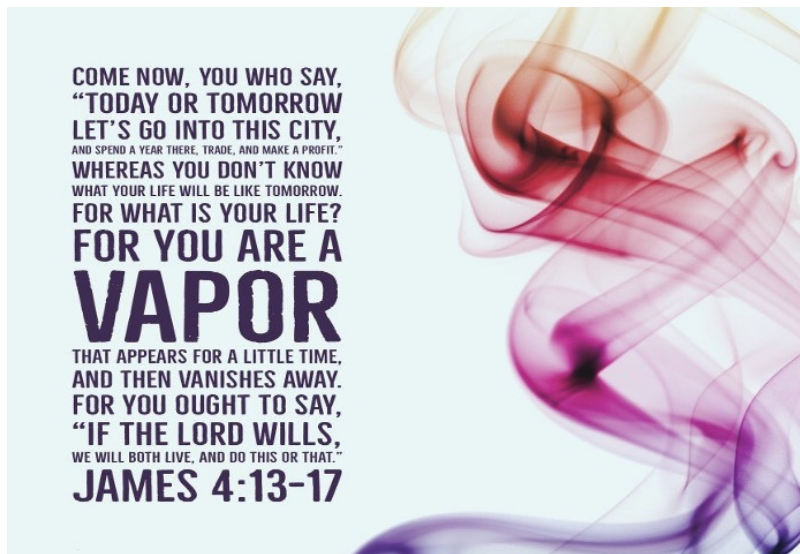


CELEBRATE 347!



As we prepare to relocate, we want to celebrate over three decades of God's faithfulness to this church family during our time at 347 Pasir Panjang Road. Here are some ways you can take part in this celebration!

- 1 Send us videos, pictures, and stories of your best moments at the church building! Email them to johnlim@ppcoc.org by 23rd Jan.
- 2 If you have a special memory you'd like to share about the church building, contact John Lim to arrange a weekend interview session (22/23 Jan).
- 3 Collect church items from 16-30 Jan (stone chairs, foldable tables, plastic chairs, Bibles, hymnals, library books and tapes). Approach any church staff to obtain them.



In James 4:13, the man plans the day of his departure, either "[t]oday or tomorrow." He plans a certain place, how long he will stay there, and even the details of his adventure. That's a lot of planning!

It's not wrong to work and plan for the future while on this earth. In fact, we must work! God said to Adam, "In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread" (Genesis 3:19). Paul tells Timothy that "If anyone will not work, neither shall he eat" (2 Thessalonians 3:10).

But let us note that problems arise when we plan without acknowledging God or His guidance and care for our lives. James focuses first on the principle of trusting God. Planning ahead is not his concern. Thinking we are in total control is the problem.

James directs us as follows: "[I]nstead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wishes, we will live and do this or that'" (James 4:15). The problem is not planning; it is planning as if the future lies in our hands. We are responsible for using wisely the resources, abilities, connections and time that God gives us. But we are not in total control of the outcomes.

This raises the principle of trusting in God rather than our superiors and captains of industry. Therefore, living a self-sufficient life apart from God is foolish.

Planning for the future without planning for one's eternal future is the depth of foolishness. Our future is like a small boat on a stormy sea! Matthew 6:19-20 tells us that we must "store [our] treasure in heaven not on earth." Where is your treasure being stored?

Weekly Nugget | Kuek Lee Hock

Mark 4:18-19 tells us that we must be careful not to let the cares of this world, the deceitfulness of riches, and the lust of other things enter into our lives and choke out the Word of God, making it unfruitful!

Colossians 3:2 tells us to set our minds on things above (eternal), not on the things of this earth (temporal).

The Brevity of Life: For what is your life? It is like the morning dew—it's here a little while, then it's gone! A vapour or fog is not permanent; neither is our life. The end of life will come to all of us! Every breath that you take, and all your ways are a gift from God (Daniel 5:23). "The Lord is the one who gives to all life, breath and all things." (Acts 17:25) "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgement." (Hebrews 9:27).

Our minds are limited. We are not omniscient like God. No matter what we plan or think, we do not fully know what will happen tomorrow, or in five minutes: accidents, earthquakes, death in family, good news, bad news, fire, flood, etc can befall us. Only when we do the "will of God" can we be confident of tomorrow.

Reflection Questions:

- 1.What plans have you made in 2022?
- 2.Have you consulted with God through His Words of Wisdom to guide and strengthen you to reach your goals for 2022?
- 3.When you have achieved your goals at the end of 2022, how will the successes shine?

Prayer:

God helps us to resist the devil and to become pure, and to sorrow and grieve over our sins. Help us to speak well of other people. And fill our minds and hearts with eternal things. Give us strength to glorify and honour You, no matter what comes our way. We trust in You for Your providential care and love will takes us through 2022. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.



When Your Youth Doesn't Want To Go To Church

2022 marks the 10th year since I was invited to serve in the youth leadership. I recently stepped down and will look back on the experience fondly.

While there have been many encouraging moments (when youth think seriously about baptism), there have also been times when I felt helpless and crushed (eg, watching a youth move further away from God). And no one feels this anguish and grief more than the youth's parents.

Conversations with these parents are often heart-breaking as they share their efforts to bring their youths to church, with their youths not responding. What can a parent do then? After conversing with multiple youths and parents, I've found three practical steps that parents can take to better guide our youths' in their personal walk with God.

Listen

The old adage goes: 'we are to listen more than we speak because we have two ears and one mouth'. However, this is counter-intuitive to parents practising the 'Asian' style of parenting, where the child listens to the parent instead of the parent listening to the child.

Parents have lived their faith for far longer, and may feel like they know what to say to their youths to 'fix' the issue. However, every youth is unique, and so also is the shape of their faith journey.

I often hear youths share that they feel their parents do not understand them and often just talk over them. At best, this leads to youths selectively listening to what their parents tell them. At worst, this leads to youths closing up and not sharing their lives with their parents at all.

Special Feature | Joel Kweok

It is after such experiences that youths start to keep struggles about their faith to themselves and gather material from online resources or friends instead of going back to their parents or to the Bible.

I encourage all of us to just sit down and listen. Employ active listening techniques such as summarizing and repeating back what our youth has said or deferring judgment by allowing our youth to finish making his or her point before asking questions. These techniques can really work miracles in relationships and provide a way for us to still be in our youths' lives. This will give us not just more insight into their worldview but also show that we are not here to impose our worldview on them, but to guide them.

Very often, youths just need to know that their concerns and feelings about Christianity are legitimate, and that someone understands and is willing to journey with them.

Give Them A Choice

It is often unthinkable for most parents to let youths choose whether they want to go to church. Parents know how important it is to believe in God and the joy this brings. Parents fear that giving their youths the choice to go to church could be a slippery slope from which there is no turning back.

Hence, parents insist their youths come along even when they no longer desire to have a relationship with God or have many doubts about their faith. Parents hope that if their youths just go to church week after week, some miracle message will change their hearts and they will be willing to come to church voluntarily again.

It is a nice idea theoretically, but I often see the story playing out very differently. Youths that are forced to go to church feel restricted and imprisoned. They are in church physically, but mentally, they are somewhere else. They get angry with their parents or God, angry that they are forced to worship someone they don't understand.

The teenage years are a critical stage of a person's life and it's important how we demonstrate God's character to them during this period. If we give the impression that God forces people to worship Him, it is very likely that we will push away youths who are genuinely searching and questioning.

Our God gives all of us a choice, as highlighted in the parable of the Prodigal Son. In that story, the father did not force his son to stay with him, where he would be well provided for. Instead, he gave him the freedom to explore the world and choose how he wanted to live his life. The prodigal son came back in the end, realising that what his father had was much better than what the world was offering.

I dare not promise that giving our youth the same freedom as the prodigal son will always lead to the same happy ending. A youth's faith is ultimately his or her own, and regardless of what we do, it is the youth's own desire that will make him or her want to go to church and have a relationship with God. However, I believe the youth has a higher chance of building that desire when we emulate God, who gives us the freedom to worship Him.

Live Out Your Christian Faith

We may ask, "If we allow our youth to not go to church, how can the message of God reach him?" This brings me to the final but, in my opinion, the most effective step we can take, and that is to live out our faith.

In my past nine years in the youth ministry, I have observed that the youths who showed the greatest desire for God were the ones who most frequently mentioned their family members as being role models.

At the recent Youth Camp, Sean Yu shared how his father wakes up at 5am daily to read the Bible. Ryan Tan shared how his grandmother spends a large portion of her week reading the Word. These family members have been an inspiration for them and they long to model their behaviour.

Special Feature

We don't have to live perfect lives, but we must show that we are trying every single day. Let us show that we yearn to worship Christ. When youths see that God is so precious to us, they will wonder about the goodness of God and hopefully one day seek Him with the same fervour. This is the best way any parent can reach out to their youth.

Conclusion

It is a heart-breaking thing to hear a youth share that church is no longer relevant to his or her life. However, let's view such situations as a chance for youths to own their own faith and see how God can personally work in their lives.

Everybody's spiritual journey is one that they must walk themselves. Parents and youth leaders can only do so much and serve as a guide for them. Nevertheless, let's have faith in the almighty God and the power of the Gospel.

The multiple detours our youths take may be necessary before they come out having a stronger ownership of their faith and a better appreciation of the gift of salvation that God has given us. In the meantime, let's act as the best guides possible by (1) listening to them, (2) giving them a choice and (3) living out our faith.

Connect With Us

Prayer Requests/ Feedback



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



Meet Our People

Elders

Simon Goh

Peter Lim

Lim Swee Aun

Deacons

Dennis Law

Lim Kok Hin

Vincent Lim

Ministers

Tan Beng Chuan

Patrick Ong

John Lim

Pledge and Building Fund Committee

Peter Lim

Jim Kawi

Grace Mariaraja