

# FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST  
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

## Sunday Morning Worship



1 May 2022

### Rescue Through Chaotic Waters

By John Lim  
Live @ 11am

We're just starting our fourth month in "exile" from our old home at 347 Pasir Panjang Road, and already it has been a journey of many rich blessings. At the same time, change is always somewhat chaotic, and the best thing we can do amidst our adjusting is to recognise that we're not the only ones.

In this new series, we're going to explore how Scripture talks about Chaos, represented by a vast chaotic ocean (think out-of-control hurricane, roaring winds and torrential rain) where life cannot exist. But the powers of Chaos are no match for the power of God Almighty, whose Spirit imposes order and peace and makes life possible.

May we see ourselves as a part of this grand story: that God rescues us through the chaotic waters and we emerge on the other side as a new creation with new life.

# Sunday Morning Worship

## Order of Worship

Call To Worship

Hallelujah Praise Jehovah

Shout Hallelujah

Opening Prayer

Scripture: Psalm 104:1-13

Spirit Touch Your Church

Communion And Giving

Scripture: Genesis 1:1-10

Salvation Belongs to Our God

Sermon

Still

Announcements

Shepherd's Prayer

Blue Skies and Rainbows

## Reflection Question

What are the characteristics of those who bear Kingdom fruit?  
What does this kind of fruit look like in the world today?

Apart from studying the Bible, praying, and attending worship services, what are some ways we can bear fruit in our lives? What is something you can do this week to bear fruit for the Kingdom?

## Giving

Last Week's Giving: **\$10,564**



General Fund  
S76SS0008AGFD



Missions Fund  
S76SS0008AMFD



Building Fund  
S76SS0008ABFD

If you plan to make a contribution via cheque, please make sure it is made payable to "**Church of Christ, Pasir Panjang, Singapore**". Please ensure that you write the full name so that the cheque can be processed smoothly.

# Upcoming Events



**1 May | 9:30am**

## **Adult Bible Class**

"A New Shepherd Arises"

*Numbers 26-30*

By Kelvin Koo

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

Contact Agnes Lim

(9858 5935)

## **Youth Bible Class**

"The Rich Young Ruler"

*The Gospel of Mark*

By Joel Yeo

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

"The Wilderness"

*Exodus 13-24*

Contact Josephine Seow (9170 4343)

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

Contact Audrey Lee

(9855 4957)

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

"Parable of the Ten Virgins"

*Matthew 25:1-13*

Contact Joanne Foo (9683 8266)

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

Contact Koo Hwee Yee

(9173 2365)

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

"Paul's First Missionary Journey"

*Acts 13*

Contact Rosalind Lee (9621 9006)



**2 May | 10:00am**

## **Elders Prayer Session**

See details on page 5



**4 May | 7:30pm**

## **Wednesday Bible Class (Zoom @ 8pm)**

"Keep Praying" (Ephesians 6:18-20)

Zoom ID: 852 6167 8088

Password: Logos



**6 May | 7:30pm**

## **Young Adult Monthly Fellowship**

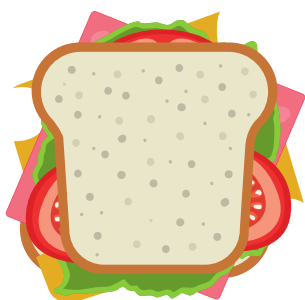
Contact Kenneth Kuek (9338 9689)



## Relaxed Safe Management Measures



With the recent relaxation of SMMs on 26 April, all members, including **unvaccinated individuals, are allowed to return to in-person worship.**



**Members are also allowed to consume food and beverages within the "church" premises.** Please do not move around while consuming your food and drinks, and remember to put your mask back on upon finishing your food or drinks.



**Singing for religious classes is allowed again.** Youth and Adult Bible classes will combine for singing and prayer at 9:30am in Galleria 2 & 3 before dispersing to their respective rooms.

As we welcome these relaxed measures that allow for fuller fellowship, **let's continue to protect our church family's health** by washing hands regularly, wearing masks throughout worship (including during singing), and meeting in less-crowded spaces where possible.

**We also encourage members who have not yet returned to in-person worship for a long time to return.** At its core, the church is a gathered people, and no Christian can be isolated from the Body of Christ and remain faithful in the long term. What better way to worship and honour God than by being gathered with fellow believers in flesh and blood!



# Family News



## Elders Prayer Session

2 May | 10am to 12pm

**ELDERS PRAYER SESSION**

2 May 2022 | 10:00am

Zoom ID: 545 552 3523  
Password: blessings

Romans 12:1  
**SERVICE - AN ACT OF WORSHIP**

Mark your calendars for our upcoming Elders' Prayer Session! We will be praying for the various ministries of the church, including worship, discipleship, member care and missions.

If you have prayer requests, please send them to the elders by Wednesday, 27 April.



## Youth Retreat: Dragonboat & Staycation

**PPCOC YOUTH RETREAT**

A WEEKEND OF FUN IN THE SUN AND FELLOWSHIP THROUGH DISCIPLESHIP

**\$10** DRAGONBOAT ONLY  
**\$25** STAYCATION ONLY  
**\$30** DRAGONBOAT & STAYCATION

**4-5 JUNE**  
SATURDAY 10AM - SUNDAY 10AM

[LEARN MORE](#)

JOEL YEO | 9154 8155  
JOHN LIM | 8689 2008

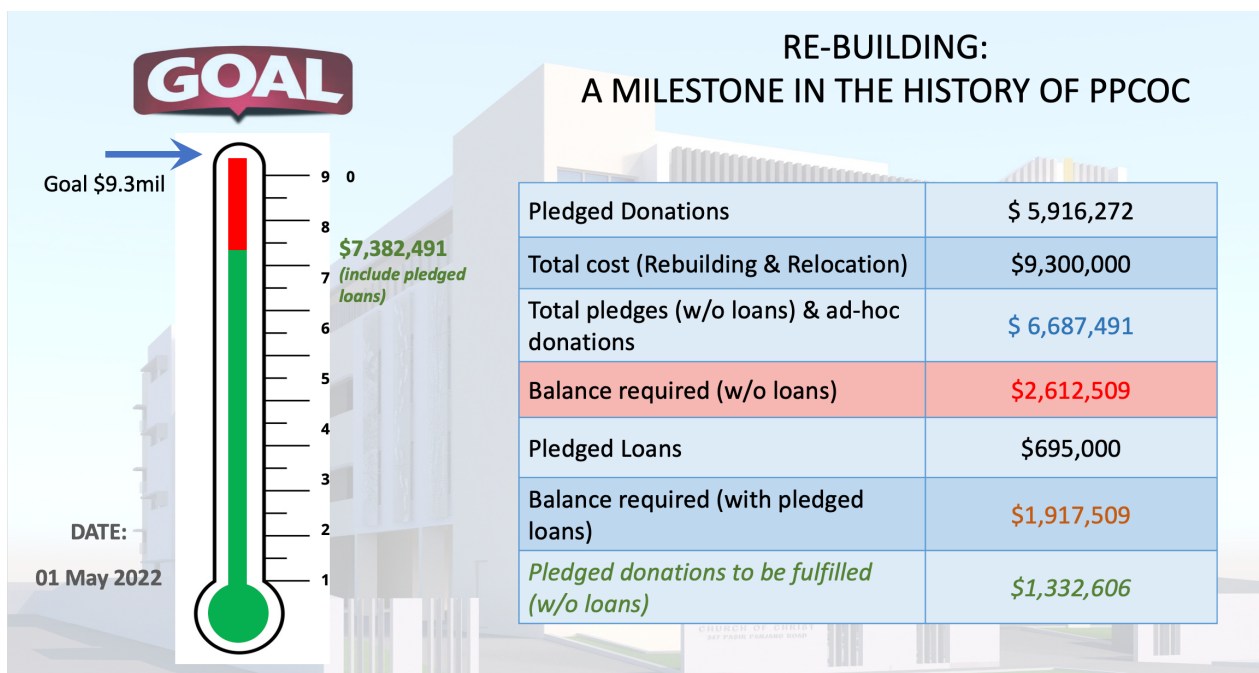
The Youth Ministry will celebrate the June school holidays with a special 2D1N retreat from Saturday to Sunday, 4-5 June!

We will kick off with a dragon boat event on Saturday morning, then proceed to a staycation at the Link Hotel for a time of games, fellowship and relaxation. Youth can sign up for the activity that fits their schedule (note the special price for attending the entire retreat!)

Youth can sign up by going to [www.bit.ly/PPYouthRetreat](http://www.bit.ly/PPYouthRetreat) or by scanning the QR Code through WhatsApp. Registration ends on 8 May.



## Rebuilding Update



The demolition phase of the reconstruction has begun, starting with the tearing down of the building at the back of the church and subsequently, the auditorium.

**Please consider giving to the project as there is still a shortfall of about \$2.6m** without the pledged loans. We believe our God will provide and will enable each one of us to give sacrificially for His kingdom's glory and work.



Following a design update to reduce costs, the **Rebuilding Committee is looking for a new Aircon and Electrical vendor**. If you are interested or have contacts, please provide the names of potential contractors to Minister Tan Beng Chuan. Applicants will be forwarded to our M&E consultant to invite them for the tender happening in May 2022.

# India Mission Trip Report

*Editor's Note: 13 April 2022 marked the first mission trip by PP members since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Sisters Grace Mariaraja and Terilee Harrison travelled to India to work with brother Joel Madiki at the Gollaprolu Church of Christ. We praise God for the success of their trip and for returning them safely to us. This is their story.*

## Wednesday, 13 April

Grace Mariaraja and I (Terilee) flew out of Changi Airport late in the evening and arrived in Visakhapatnam well after midnight Singapore time. We were picked up at the airport by Jani Madiki, Joel's younger brother working in Visak. As we stood in the carpark loading up our luggage into the car, we thought, "It's so good to be home." It really felt like home away from home. We spent that first night at a local hotel close to the airport.

## Thursday, 14 April

Jani picked us up at noon and a 3-hour drive became a 5.5 hour journey through heavy traffic to Pithapuram, the Madikis' home. What a delight it was to reunite with this (our) family for the first time in 27 months. When we left Pithapuram in January 2020, we had no clue that Covid would keep us apart for so long. We arrived at 7pm (IST) and exchanged teary hugs.



We made another 30-minute journey to Sudha Madiki's home to meet the extended family and have dinner. To honour our arrival, Joel's other brother Paul and his family also joined us for what felt like a long-awaited reunion. Needless to say, there was another round of teary hugs. We reviewed our schedule of events for the next few days and spent time going over our lessons with our translators (Sudha and Ruth Madiki) to prepare for the sharing on Friday and Saturday.



## Friday, 15 April, 2022.

The church ladies meet every Good Friday for a Women's Retreat from 11 am to 3 pm. Traditionally, they collectively fast until after the retreat is over. Some of them don't even drink water! It was such a joy to be reunited with the ladies of the congregation and a delight to see the children.



# India Mission Trip Report

When we arrived at the church, the ladies' vibrant singing greeted us and we felt a sense of belonging and excitement. There were almost 100 people packed into the tiny building. We recognised many of their happy faces and greeted them with 2 palms together (traditional Indian greeting). What joy to be (re)united with the ladies of the congregation and what a delight to see the children. It is amazing to see and be in the presence of these devout ladies and children – they sit on the hard floor or benches for hours in sweltering heat, mesmerized by God's word. It made us wonder why we rarely feel this way. There is so much to learn from these people who have so little and yet so much!

The theme of the retreat was "Cross Bearers." There were 3 lessons taught: Understanding the Cross (Terilee), Bearing the Cross (Ruth Madiki), and Enduring the Cross (Sudha Turugopu). The finale lesson would be shared at worship by Joel entitled "Celebrating the Cross."



After the Retreat, it was catch up time and we had to pry ourselves away to go home and prepare for the evening session. By then, our SIBI graduate Kiran Babu and his wife Sowjanya had arrived by train to the Madiki's home. There was not enough time in this trip to visit Kiran and Sowjanya and the Reddy Palem Church of Christ in their village in Guntur. Therefore, we were blessed they were sponsored by PPCOC to visit us at the Madiki's for the weekend. It was a blessing to encourage them and get to know Sowjanya and the work Kiran was doing at Guntur.

Soon, it was time for the 10th Annual Women's Meeting of the Gollaprolu Church of Christ. The theme was "Look to Jesus." There were 2 lessons in the first evening: "Look to Jesus in Sinking/Struggling Times" (Grace) and "Look to Jesus in Times of Grief" (Terilee). The turn out was as good as pre-Covid times with over 200 ladies showing up. There were a number of men, as well as youths who helped out.

After the meeting, we spent time greeting them, acceding to numerous "selfie madam" requests (they love taking photos with us), serving them food and fellowshiping with the ladies. We reached home close to midnight and hit the bed feeling tired physically but nourished spiritually.

# India Mission Trip Report

**Saturday, 16 April, 2022.**

We met with some of the DMM (Disciple Maker Movement) Women's Ministry leaders in the Madiki's home. This was the same group of women that we had met with and taught in 2018. We were delighted to meet them again after 4 years.

Initially, Joel had told us that it was just a catch-up session but we were actually "requested" to present a lesson each. Terilee, being ever so resourceful, quickly put together a lesson outline (on the life of Moses), and we had an uplifting session with the women leaders.

It is my experience that when I (Grace) share without preparation, God fills all my lack and the sharing turned out to be way better than what I could imagine. We sang hymns in English and they sang for us in Telugu and God was glorified.

We enjoyed a lunch with the women leaders and we felt that we somehow played a small part in empowering the ladies to live purposefully and step forward as they pursue God and minister in their own localities.



We got ready for the second evening of the Women's Meeting. There were 2 lessons shared: Look to Jesus When Others are Struggling and Need Help (Grace) and Look to Jesus for the Reward (Sudha).

Again, the meeting was packed with over 200 ladies and some men. It was round 2 of greetings, "selfie madam", serving food and fellowship with them. In the lessons shared, we were purposeful in learning from hindsight what Covid taught us and how Jesus brought us through the difficult times.

Grace and I wish to acknowledge and thank our translators: Ruth Madiki, Sheela Madiki, and Sudha Turagopu for their relentless dedication to working alongside us.

# India Mission Trip Report

## Sunday, 17 April

We were blessed to worship with the congregation at Gollaprolu COC on Sunday morning. The hall was super packed and we had to tip toe to our seats in front as the wooden benches, the aisles and the floor were full of members. Joel preached and concluded the Cross series. After the services, the ladies honored us as their guests, and they also had a cake cut to celebrate the marriage of Kiran and Sowjanya.

As it was our return home day, we could not stay long but we were reminded that the kids were waiting for us in their bible classes. We loved greeting them one last time before we left. It was heart wrenching to leave not knowing for sure when we will return.



After church, we had a final thank-you and goodbye lunch with the entire Madiki family before heading to the airport. We discussed how we could move forward, including getting together online and leverage technology several times a year to reach a wider group of women across India and beyond. We are prayerfully going to meet and discuss this further.

## Things That Touched Our Hearts

(1) The ladies of the church practise and perform songs as a choir lifting their voices to the Lord. When they sing, they wear matching pink sarees. During the evening meeting, some children from the congregation (the daughters of the choir members) approached Joel, to his surprise, and asked if they could sing as well.





# India Mission Trip Report

They had been noticing their mothers' music ministry and wanted to participate. They came to the meeting and sang beautifully, and all were wearing white and black to match. They did this all on their own accord with no mentoring or help. What a blessing to see and hear God's hand in their lives!

(2) Several times throughout the weekend, there were opportunities for the ladies to give their testimonies. It was refreshing to see that the ladies were neither self-conscious nor afraid to come forward to take the mic and share, usually with tears flowing freely. Though we could not understand most of what they said, we could feel their pain and their faith in God. It was so encouraging to see their boldness for the Lord and they inspired us.

(3) We learned some ladies had to go overseas to work, leaving their children behind, because the men of the house were given to alcohol. O how heartbreaking!

(4) We love listening to the ladies pray! The prayers are fast and furious and full of feelings (FFFF). We cannot understand them at all, but their prayers bring us to tears—how they cry out to the Lord and how passionately they pray from the heart. We will do well to emulate.

(5) At the Sunday service, We noticed an egg and plastic bottle of milk on the altar at worship and asked Joel what that was. He said it was an offering. They often receive such offerings — it is all some of their members have to give. This really touched our hearts and reminded us of the widow's 2 mites.

Grace and I sincerely thank PPCOC for this opportunity and privilege to minister in India and to be one of the first mission teams to travel post-COVID.

Joel Madiki and the church at Gollaprolu wish to thank PPCOC for our partnership and support in ministry all these years. We pray for the opportunity to continue serving together for many years to come.

**Grace Mariaraja and Terilee Harrison**



# 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

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