

FOCUS



CHURCH *of* CHRIST
PASIR PANJANG, SINGAPORE

Sunday Morning Worship

BECOMING

The People of God

Becoming People of the Table | 20 August 2023

What is a Singaporean's love language? The answer: food! We pride ourselves on being a culinary paradise, a 'gastronomical wonderland' where cuisines from all over the world come together. We gladly gather around tables to share food and drink, but also stories, laughter, sorrows and tears.

Perhaps we are not so different from the early church after all! The early Christians became renowned for meeting daily to "break bread" and for receiving their food with glad hearts. Something about their dining etiquette set them apart from the world around them, so that even their tables became a place where the gospel of Jesus was made known.

What if all our tables in the 21st century were shaped by that ancient table? What would it look like if the spirit of the Lord's Supper on Sunday spreads into every meal of every day?

Sunday Morning Worship

Order of Worship

Welcome

Announcements

Call To Worship

[We Shall Assemble](#)

[I Love You Lord](#)

Scripture: Psalm 119:49-56

Opening Prayer

[Come To The Table](#)

Sermon

[Come Share The Lord](#)

Communion

Giving

Shepherd's Blessing

[A Common love](#)

Giving

Last Week's Giving: **\$10,756 / \$12,000**



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



20 Aug | 9:30am

Combined Bible Class

Spiritual Disciplines: Service

GEMS Bible Class (Kinderkids)

Be Born Again

(John 2:12-3:20)

GEMS Bible Class (Cradle Roll)

Thank You God For Family

GEMS Bible Class (P123)

The Passover

(Exodus 11-13:16)

GEMS Bible Class (Toddlers)

Prodigal Son

GEMS Bible Class (P456)

Contest on Mount Carmel

(1 Kings 18)

GEMS Bible Class (Nursery)

The Woman At The Well



23 Aug | 7am

The Teh-ology Podcast

The Way of the Table



23 Aug | 7:30pm

Wednesday Bible Class

Not One Of His Bones Will Be Broken

(John 19:31-36)



25-26 Aug

Batam Excursion

Spirited Seniors for Christ

Family News

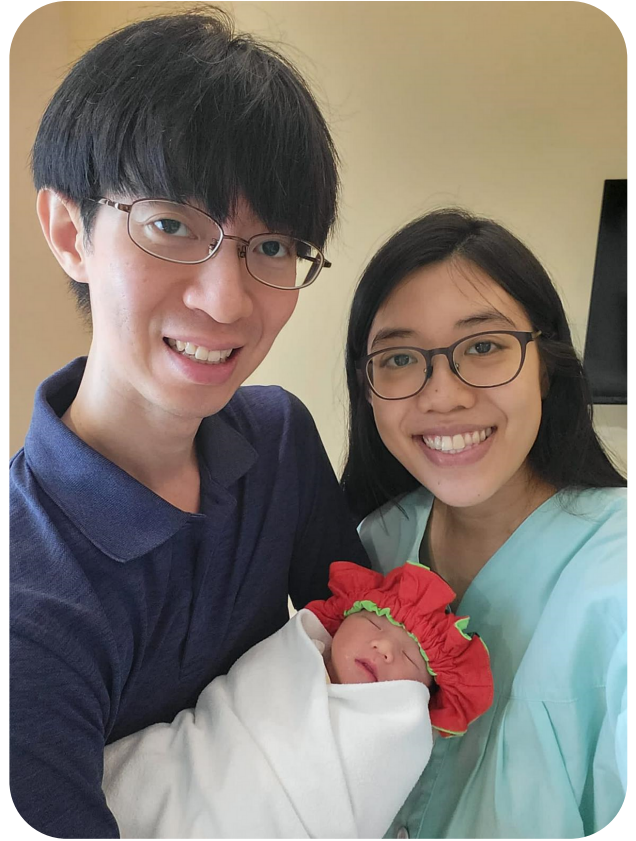


Welcome Nikaia Chen Rong!

With just one single push, Nikaia Chen Rong entered the world on Tuesday, 15 August and became the second-born child of Chen Yi and Eunice! Her name comes from the Greek word for 'victory', and we pray that our God, Lord of Hosts, will go before her and grant her victory in all her journeys in this life!

Both mother and child are doing well - in fact, the delivery was so fast and smooth that the daddy missed it!

Let us surround Chen Yi and Eunice with all our prayers and support as they minister to their growing family!



SSC Sewing Workshop



Last Saturday, our Spirited Seniors for Christ organised an afternoon of sewing and fellowship! We are thankful for a ministry that creates opportunities for God's family to gather and bond over shared interests! It's events like these that strengthen the 'fabric' of God's society!

Mission Philippines

Sharing by Kyle Hooper

From 11-14 August, brothers Dennis Law and Kyle Hooper had the opportunity to visit and encourage our mission partner (and former SIBI student), Joemar Recomono. It takes a full day to travel from Singapore to the villages of Pacao and Tugas on the island of Negros Occidental in The Philippines.



Joemar met us at the airport in Bacolod City and drove us to Kabankalan, the city nearest to the villages. On Saturday, Joemar introduced us to the two village captains (chiefs), so that we can proceed safely with teaching and preaching. We also met with the local high school principal to hear about the school's needs. There we learned how Joemar regularly goes to teach lessons on Christian values to the students. Dennis and I led a home Bible study for the members of Pacao and Tugas congregations respectively. On Sunday we worshipped at both locations, where we each shared a sermon.

It is wonderful to see how God has grown Joemar's influence and reputation as a man of faith in his community. He is an active member and the chairman of the Farmers' Association. He connects regularly with other ministers in the area and is proactive in supporting the education of the youth at the high school. He uses his vehicle, an old, unreliable pickup truck, to transport people for worship and Bible study. He is also encouraging a budding house church in another nearby community. Let us all give thanks to God for growing the faith of believers in these two communities. Let us keep them in our prayers.

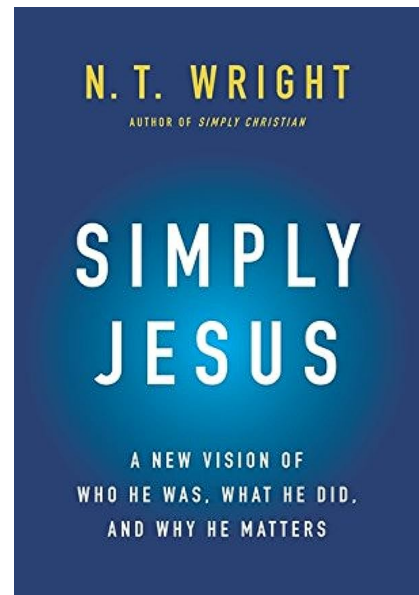
1. Pray for Joemar and his family as they continue to minister in this location.
2. Pray for the members of the Tugas church that are suffering due to imprisoned family members and false accusations of murder.
3. Pray that the church can continue to support development efforts in the community and the school, that this may open doors for the Gospel.
4. Pray for continued growth in faith and obedience in discipleship for the members, that they may partner with Joemar and Jonas in spreading the Gospel.

Simply Jesus by N.T. Wright

Book Review by Joanne Tjipto

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Many Christians today spend a significant amount of time reading about Jesus, praying with Jesus, talking about Jesus, and meditating on Jesus. Yet N.T. Wright argues that many of us may not really understand who Jesus was, what he did, and why it matters today. Wright suggests that we often unknowingly create our own versions of Jesus due to a lack of understanding of the historical and cultural contexts of biblical times.



In *Simply Jesus*, Wright provides answers to these three key questions. His short answer is this: Jesus is king; Jesus came to earth to proclaim his kingship; and Jesus rules his kingdom on earth today through his followers.

Wright explains that Jesus' kingship and kingdom were and still are so radically different when compared to human expectations. The Romans believed that Caesar was god and king; they couldn't accept Jesus as king if he didn't have an army, weapons, and territory. The first century Jews had waited long for a Messiah to save them from foreign oppression; they couldn't accept Jesus as king if he didn't physically overthrow the Romans. Today, too many Christians accept Jesus as king in their hearts but feel that his power and rule only exist in a faraway heaven. Others can't accept Jesus is king if he allows evil and suffering to abound on earth.

Yet, according to Scripture, Jesus has established himself as king and he manages his kingdom in a way everyone least expects. King Jesus did defeat the enemy, but not the enemy anyone imagined. He defeated Satan – who's behind all evil in this world – by defeating death on the cross. King Jesus possesses an impressive army, but not one dressed in military uniforms like earthly armies. Instead, his army is represented by the church and comprises the broken and contrite. King Jesus owns the finest weapons, but not ones that can be easily seen or held. Instead, his weapons conquer body, heart, and soul through forgiveness, healing, and love.

In sum, Jesus' kingdom exists. And it's not in a faraway space. Instead, his kingdom is at work at this very moment, on earth as it is in heaven.

I was one of those Christians mentioned in Wright's book: I grew up all my life thinking that Jesus' kingdom exists in a faraway heaven. I felt that my life on earth was something to suffer and tolerate in the hope that I will eventually end up in the right place. I knew Jesus was king but didn't see or feel his kingdom's presence on earth.

Reading Wright's book wasn't simple for me. I found it difficult to understand several arguments in the book because of a lack of understanding of Old Testament prophecies, scholarly controversies, and biblical history. Yet, persevering with the book has improved my understanding. Now Jesus' kingdom has been redefined in my life.

Previously, the church felt like a group of weary people hanging onto a rope waiting for a Saviour to sweep us up into a confined heaven filled with gold and jewels. Now, I see glimmers of heaven on earth. The church rules with Jesus and the church is victorious in Jesus. Everything on earth submits to King Jesus – nature, believers, and unbelievers – even if it's not entirely obvious to all. Jesus allows evil and suffering to continue even as he expects his church to share in his pain and glory. Through God's Spirit, the church abides in love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control – thus giving Christians true victory over sin and death.

Go ahead, pick-up Wright's book. And hang in there to the end!

Sister Joanne Tjipto is married to Alvin and they are blessed with three young boys. The Tjiptos are part of Belmore Road Church of Christ in suburban Melbourne.
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