

# FAITHLINK

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**SPECIAL THANKS** to Faith members who took photos of their families and children at home, and others who helped to take group photos of their Zoom ministry sessions and/or Small Group meetings!

For contributions, please send them to [faithlink@faithmc.sg](mailto:faithlink@faithmc.sg).

*Faithlink* is published three times a year by Faith Methodist Church (Singapore) for internal circulation to the congregation of Faith Methodist Church and their friends. Views expressed in *Faithlink* are the contributors' and do not necessarily reflect those of the Church and the Editorial Board.

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# CONNECTED ONLINE

## Blessed 54th Anniversary FAITH!

This year, our church celebrates her birthday under very unique circumstances as a result of COVID-19. We are unable to meet in church due to the suspension of physical services and government restrictions on social gatherings. But thank God for our Sunday service live stream, we could celebrate online, albeit in a limited way.

Since March 2020 when we closed our shutters, the thought of not meeting our friends and family again for an indefinite time seemed daunting. So what did we do? We gathered online. Nothing beats face-to-face interactions because we humans are social creatures and crave connection.

In this issue of *Faithlink*, instead of the usual photographs of church events, you will see more "online photographs" from the various Zoom sessions that our ministries conducted.

From Small Group meetings (page 16), to our Young Adult sessions (page 55), and even SUN JAM children's classes (Page 22), our Faith church family is very much alive and staying connected as much as possible!

Yet, in our eagerness to do so, let us also remember our fellow members and seniors especially, who are not technologically-savvy and live alone; they have likely been feeling lost and lonely since the lockdown in April. That was why we set up the Pastoral Care Package

Committee, or PCPC (read more on page 8), to reach out to seniors above 60 years old.

God knows the future and what it holds for each one of us. As we slowly get into the grind of the new normal, I pray that our hearts will remain strong in the Lord as we trust Him for all outcomes. As His precious flock, may Faith continue to remain steadfast on our Chief Shepherd as He leads and guides us.

Resting In Him,

*Glyn*

Glynisia Yeo  
Editor



Faith staff members meeting online

# LET'S ZOOM IN...



Blessed 54<sup>th</sup> birthday, Faith!

What a joy to celebrate another year of God's faithfulness to us as a Faith Family. He has truly protected and provided for us through the Circuit Breaker and Phase 1 of the COVID-19 pandemic. Even now in Phase 2 and moving towards a new normal, we know our lives are cradled in the Lord's mercy and steadfast love. Let's be thankful! Let's *zoom* in on His grace for us in the months ahead.

*Pastor, did you just use the word "zoom"? Enough of Zoom! Yes, some of us are experiencing Zoom fatigue, zooming around on this popular videoconferencing platform for work, ministry and connecting with each other.*

But it is indeed time to zoom in on some *key issues* for us as a church in the season ahead!

Allow me to share three insights.

## The Digital Church

We need to ask ourselves, "Will we be a physical church with a digital presence or a digital church with a physical presence?" The truth is we need *both*. The pandemic has pushed church to the digital space and it is this space that we need to harness for the glory of God. It is this space that we need to sow and reap a harvest of righteousness. It is this space that we need to redeem for God's kingdom when it has been long used by the Evil One. Think of how we can share the gospel to thousands who watch our online services and usher in God's transformation through His Spirit as we move to online

teaching, equipping, and evangelism. We need to pray for and move in the Spirit's creativity!

## The Relational Touch

But even as we go online, we must not ignore the relational touch. COVID-19 has challenged the church to be all the more intentional in forging true community. Because we are unable to gather in large numbers, our strength lies in the Small Groups we have.

Pastor Peter highlights in his article (page 4) the need to persevere in true community. How true that is! We must not leave anyone behind. We would need to pay extra attention to those who may be struggling spiritually and emotionally, and reach out to the least and last among

us. We must safeguard the relationships in our families, and render support to our members and worshippers who may be financially impacted by the pandemic. We must not allow social distancing to affect the authenticity of our *koinonia*. We must intentionally love each other deeply, as Christ has loved us sacrificially, for it is by such love that the world knows we are His disciples (John 13:34-35). Such love is indeed our witness for Christ in these challenging times.

### The Accountability in Discipleship

Jesus is coming soon. This COVID-19 trial is a sombre reminder of this reality. There must be a real urgency for us to be intentional in our discipleship, to

make our lives count for eternity. I believe intentional discipleship is strengthened when there is a willingness to be accountable to one another, to spur each other to love and good deeds, all the more as the Day of His return is approaching (Hebrews 10:24-25).

May we not let this pandemic pass us by without seriously asking ourselves where we are with the Lord, turning our hearts in realignment with Him and being accountable to someone to help us grow in our faith! Pastor Anthony shares in his article (page 6) about finding God's strength through our vulnerability. Yes, may we also learn to be vulnerable to each other, for it is in such authenticity that we encounter the surprising empowerment of God.

### Closing

In these uncertain times but with God's grace and wisdom, it's time we zoom in on these key issues facing us as a church.

Let us explore fresh, digital opportunities for His kingdom.

Let us reach out with compassion and love for each other, especially the least, last and lost in such challenging times.

Let us stay intentionally accountable to one another for our discipleship journey with our faithful God.

Happy birthday, Faith!

**Zooming in with you,**

  
Pastor Ray



# TOGETHER WE CAN!

By Rev Peter Koh



The world has somewhat been forced to rethink the way we should live our lives in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic has caused us to change the way we socialize, work and relate to one another. It has also affected our movements and travels.

So, as we step out of the circuit breaker (CB), entering into a "new norm" of life, let us not forget to look out for and after one another, but for others around us too. We are made for relationships as the Word of God reminds us, "it is not good for man to be alone" (Gen. 2:18). Due to the prolonged distancing we experienced during the Circuit Breaker period, it is very easy for us to be inward-looking and care just for ourselves. Remember that God has blessed us much and we are blessed to bless others (Gen.12:2-3). May this be a timely reminder for us as we celebrate our 54<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of Faith Methodist Church. Our purpose of a faith community is in "Transforming Lives Changing The World." Yes,

we may need to reframe our thinking in the way we live our lives and serve God. But we must always remain steadfast in obeying God's Word and abiding in Jesus.

The writer of Ecclesiastes 4:9-12 reminded us of the importance of working and serving one another. Let me briefly share some thoughts on these verses:

*Verse 9: Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil*

### Productivity in our work

We are more productive when we work (serve) as a group, rather than individually. We can complement each other with our giftings and talents. A good harvest (output) results. For example, in a Small Group where some members are gifted in hospitality, some in administration and others in leading, they can together conduct an Alpha program, or run the Adopt A Block (AAB) project and get good results. **Together we can do and serve!**





*Verse 10: For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!*

### Perseverance in our walk

We can support one another when we are in a Small Group. When we encounter trials or temptations, we can call or count on others to pray, encourage and help us. The burden is lessened when carried by more people.

**Together we can** endure and press on!

*Verse 11: Again, if two lie together, they keep warm, but how can one keep warm alone?*

### Preservation in our warmth

Many of us may not fully appreciate this verse unless you have experienced falling into an icy river or have felt extremely cold before. A good hug from a loved one or a good friend does wonders! Sometimes, emotionally too, we may feel really low or down. Having someone to confide in or share our sorrows and pains with, can give us relief and comfort. **Together we can** share and care!

*Verse 12: And though a man might prevail against one who is alone, two will withstand him—a threefold cord is not quickly broken.*

### Protection in our warfare

Two is definitely better than one, in a fight. More victorious we will be, if we have three or more to back us up. The Bible reminds us in Ephesians 6, verse 12 that we wrestle with spiritual forces of evil – we are in spiritual warfare! Hence, being in a group, we are more able to fight our enemy. **Together we can** protect one another!

So, let us move forward into the “new norm” of life with confidence and faith in our Lord. Let us join a Small Group in Church. Together with like-minded brothers and sisters in Christ, let us accomplish and achieve the One Mission of our Church.

Together We Can! 🙌

*Rev Peter Koh oversees several ministries at Faith, including Small Groups, Baptism & Membership, Faith Walk, and Marriage Preparation. He enjoys spending time with his wife, Jenny, and their two adult children.*

# OUR VULNERABILITY, HIS POWER

By Pastor Anthony Phua

*For He was crucified in weakness, but lives by the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, but in dealing with you we will live with Him by the power of God.*  
~ 2 Corinthians 13:4

The COVID-19 outbreak has revealed and tested our vulnerability at all levels. The force of the pandemic has, at the very least, punctuated our routines and plans. For some of us, the impact may have breached the sense of security that was once provided by our jobs and finances.

On the community front, the resultant damage and stress have torn some of the social fabrics that some of us have unceasingly been trying to sew together in order to strengthen our relationships. Some of us may even find the effects laying siege at the doorsteps of our physical and emotional well-being.

For the vulnerable groups, the degrees of vulnerability have inevitably increased. The challenge of the pandemic

on our vulnerability may leave a bitter taste in our lives, and perhaps the taste will linger on for a long time.

## **Power in Weakness Through Christ**

However, the apostle Paul had a different take on his vulnerability.

The second epistle to the churches in Corinth reveals the vulnerable situation of Paul. His authority as an apostle was being questioned, his trust with the Corinthians was challenged and his ministry restricted, mainly because of a certain accuser in the churches.

Suddenly, all that he had invested in the Corinthians had crumbled down. But Paul affirmed that his weakness, if anything, only opened up opportunities for the power of God to manifest in His life.

We do not often relate power to weakness, for power comes from strength. Yet, this power (in weakness) exists when we

are in Christ. Paul chose to live by this hope because this is what Christ has demonstrated in His death (2 Cor. 13:4).

## Depend on our Heavenly Father

I had the pleasure during this "Work from Home" season to watch first-hand, my baby boy reaching some of his milestones.

When he was learning to flip so that he could lie on his tummy, I watched him trying 20 to 30 times on several occasions just to make a flip. In those instances, I learned that even the most vulnerable can overcome their own challenges.

There were times when he would be unaware of a small pillow that was obstructing his relentless effort. All he needed at those moments was for me to simply remove that pillow.

Similarly, sometimes all we need in our challenges is to shift our dependence on our Father for His power to come forth.

## Our Vulnerability: A Channel for God's Power

What will you choose to do in your current challenges? Would you choose to live by the power of God?

Paul's encouragement to us is that we can also live by the power of God in our relationship with others, even with those who have caused you agony ("but in dealing with you, we will live with Him by the power of God").

Our vulnerability is not a stumbling block; it is a channel for God's power.

What happens when we choose to live by the power of God in our vulnerability? It will be like a spotlight in a theatrical play. The spotlight will be shifted from our weaknesses to the entrance of the power of God, and allow Him to take centre stage in the crisis of our lives.

*"But He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."*

~ 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 

*Pastor Anthony is an Assistant Pastor at Faith. According to him, he is learning to be a good earthly father to his child by learning to be a good child to his heavenly Father.*





# CONTINUING THE WORK OF PASTORAL CARE

By Peh Oon Thian

When the church cancelled its physical gatherings and church services due to COVID-19, a group of members, mainly seniors, faced a major hurdle in staying connected to the church. For some, the abrupt change to an "online church" proved to be such a challenge that many of them were at a loss initially. There was a need to provide additional pastoral care, including psychological support, financial aid and spiritual encouragement during this difficult time.

This was how the Pastoral Care Package (PCP) team was birthed; because our demonstration of love towards God is best expressed through deeds done to His people who are facing hardship. Some

practical steps were taken to bridge this gap caused by the COVID situation.

## Practical Love

Since April 2020, each pastoral staff was assigned to call about 60 members; mostly elderly ones, who attend our Sunday services regularly and are not associated with any Small Group. Though the task was demanding, the reports submitted by the Pastoral Staff were rewarding and satisfying. Majority of the people we called were appreciative that the church took this initiative to call them; most of them were doing fine and did not need any help. There were others who indicated that they were keen to be connected to a Small Group, and a few others who had not attended Faith for a long time and shared that they would attend Faith again because of the call.

In addition to personal phone calls, the PCP team garnered the help of some church members to help buy groceries to the seniors who needed support in this area, and proceeded to personally deliver them. The elderly folk were very touched by the gesture.

## Dial-A-Sermon

Among these elderly, some were living alone and wanted access to sermons. But there was a hurdle: Most of Faith's sermons were accessible only via online platforms (including Youtube and Facebook) which proved to be a challenge for them. They needed a more efficient way to stay spiritually fed.

As such, Faith introduced Dial-A-Sermon! The caller would simply have to dial a phone number and they would be able to hear a sermon on their mobile phones or landlines.

Dial-A-Sermon contains both Mandarin and English sermons, and new preaching messages were uploaded each week. This was indeed a welcome service for many of the older members.

We thank God that the various committees, partnerships, and connections forged between the leadership, staff and church members exhibit the "ALLELON" spirit.

To God be the glory! 🙏

*Peh Oon Thian is the Team Leader of the Revelation Shofar Team, and is the Senior Pastoral Team Member for Mandarin, Prayer and Hospitality ministries at Faith.*



# 延续教牧 关怀的工作

当教会因冠状病毒而取消实体聚会和主日崇拜时，一群会友，尤其是年长者，在与教会保持联系方面面临一个重大的障碍。对一些会友来说，突然变成“线上教会”是个巨大的挑战，以至于许多会友一开始就不知所措。在这困难时期，教会需要提供额外的教牧关怀，包括心理扶持、经济援助和属灵上的鼓励。因此教会设立了教牧关怀团队；因为我们对上帝的爱，最好的表达方式是帮助那些正面临困境的弟兄姐妹。教会采取了一些实际行动来填补由冠状病毒所引起的缺口。

## 实际的爱

自2020年4月起，每位教牧同工负责给大约60名会友打电话；其中大部分是年长者，他们定期参加我们的主日崇拜，但没有参加小组。虽然任务艰巨，但教牧同工所提交的报告是值得并令人满意的。大多数的会友都很感激教会主动打电话给他们；大多数的会友都很好，不需要任何帮助。还有一些会友表示，他们渴望参加小组，还有一些会友很久没有参加本教会的崇拜了。他们分享，因这通电话，他们将再次参加本堂的崇拜。除了通电话外，教牧关怀团队也获得一些会友的帮助为年长者购买食品杂货，并亲自送货。年长者被这举动感动了。

## 拨号-听道

在这些年长者当中，有些是独居的，希望能听到讲道。但有一个障碍：思珍堂的讲道只能通过在线平台（包括Youtube和脸书）听到。这对他们来说是个挑战。他们需要一种更有效的方式来喂养属灵。正因如此，本堂推出了拨号-听道！打电话的人只需拨一个电话号码，就能听到讲道。拨号-听道包含中英文讲道，每周都会上传新的讲道讯息。对许多年长会友来说，这的确是一项受欢迎的服务。

我们感谢上帝，各委员会、伙伴以及领导层、同工和会友之间所建立的关系，展现了“彼此服事”的精神。荣耀归于上帝！

冯清颜  
助理教牧同工  
外展与中文事工



# STAY CONNECTED WITH US! 与我们保持联系!



DIAL-A-SERMON:

**3138-4720**

拨号-听道:

**3138-4720**



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HELPFUL RESOURCES:  
COVID-19 RESOURCE PORTAL

- Online Sunday Services:

[faithmc.sg/livestream](https://faithmc.sg/livestream)

- Prayer Requests:

[www.faithmc.sg/care-help/  
prayer-requests/](https://www.faithmc.sg/care-help/prayer-requests/)

有用资源:

冠状病毒资源门户

-在线主日崇拜:

[faithmc.sg/livestream](https://faithmc.sg/livestream)

-祷告请求:

[www.faithmc.sg/care-  
help/prayer-requests/](https://www.faithmc.sg/care-help/prayer-requests/)



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# THE S3P@FAITH INITIATIVE: A TEMPORARY 24-HOUR SHELTER FOR WOMEN

By Rachel Tham



Faith Methodist Church opened her doors to the homeless with the setting up of a Safe Sound Sleeping Place (S3P@Faith) within her premises from 23 April to 1 June 2020. This was a joint initiative with Queenstown Chinese Methodist Church (QCMC) who shares the same premises with us.

The objective of this partnership was to live out our faith in loving our neighbours and meeting a heightened need: due to the COVID-19 circuit breaker measures, Singapore's homeless found their regular resting spots inaccessible,

and many employees in the F&B and retail sectors were out of work and unable to afford housing rent, among other impacts on society's marginalized. The Malaysian lockdown also left some Malaysians who shuttled in and out of Singapore for work stranded without housing arrangements.

A team comprising staff and volunteers from both Faith and QCMC came together to run S3P@Faith. Together, we obtained the necessary clearances from Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF), and Ministry of Trade and Industry



(MTI) in allowing our shelter to run, and took turns in taking shifts to oversee and befriend the stayers. We also helped to keep the pantry and amenities stocked.

## Extending Care And Love

S3P@Faith ran at full capacity, sheltering eight female stayers during the circuit breaker period. They were Malaysians and Singaporeans ranging from middle-aged adults to the elderly. Some had been living in public spaces for years, some were displaced from their housing by the COVID-19 situation, while others were Malaysians

unable to return home due to travel restrictions.

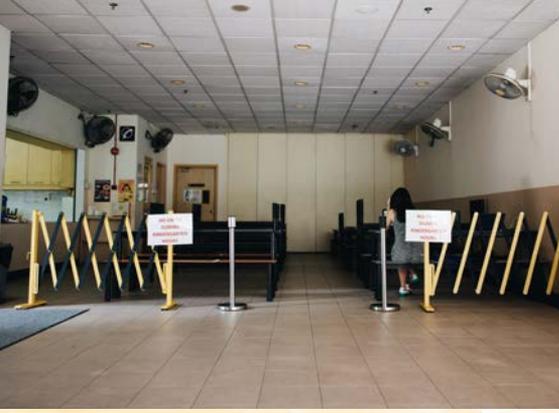
To mitigate the increased cleaning requirements amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, and to safeguard the stayers, church volunteers, and cleaners, the living quarters had to be limited to Level 1 of the church building (Faith Corner, QCMC room, and pantry), with a designated route to the Level 4 washroom.

MSF authorities also visited the premises before operations began to ensure our S3P met all safety requirements, both as a shelter and in the COVID-19 situation, such as safe

distancing, temperature scanning, and contact tracing protocols. For example, sleeping areas were limited to four stayers each to maintain safe distancing of two metres apart. Additionally, all persons on site were required to check in/out via SafeEntry and had to be masked at all times.

## Serving In One Mission

During their stay at the S3P, our team had opportunities to listen to their stories, and extend practical and pastoral care in whatever ways we could. One of our stayers even received Christ because of the love she experienced through the community of



volunteers at the shelter –  
praise the Lord!

S3P@Faith was an example of our church stepping up in One Mission to serve our community in practical ways. As a Faith family and members of our society, we can do our part to bring God's love to and build a more inclusive community by breaking down stereotypes about the homeless being dirty, unhygienic, uneducated, or lazy.

Many of them, despite their best efforts, have been rendered temporarily homeless due to life transition issues, or have simply fallen



through the cracks of government policies and support systems. Others have been unexpectedly – and sometimes cruelly – displaced by family.

Let's seize every encounter as an opportunity to bring our kingdom family to those around us both in thought and action, as whatever we do for the least of us, we do for Him (Matt. 25:40). 🙏

*Rachel is the Communications Executive at Faith, and was also part of the S3P@Faith Team.*

# A Meeting of Hearts

*"This shelter is an expression of that radical, sacrificial hospitality to the least and last among us. This is the spirit of One Mission, because we are to bring hope to the hopeless as a testimony of His amazing love!"*

**Rev Raymond Fong**

(Pastor-in-Charge of Faith Methodist Church, S3P@Faith Team)

*"Jesus wants His children to be do-ers of the Word, and not hearers only. Matthew 25:40 says, 'Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it for me.' We thank God for the opportunity to be do-ers of His Word. All glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!"*

**Ng Ee Kiat**

(LCEC Chairperson of Queenstown Chinese Methodist Church, S3P@Faith Team)

*"It is heart-warming to see a meeting of hearts and minds of brothers and sisters-in-Christ to provide care and love for the stayers. Little acts of kindness, done with the love of God, can transform lives and change the world."*

**Richard Kooi**

(Joint Management Committee, S3P@Faith Team)

*"When I came [to Faith], it was an eyeopener for me... In all my life, in Singapore, I have never been to a church. I was received with open arms, everybody was very friendly, and I was very, very touched."*

**S3P@Faith Stayer**

## ADOPT-A-DORM

By Rev Eddie Ho

*Thousands of migrant workers have been affected by the COVID-19 situation in Singapore. Due to the lock down in their dormitories, their work and daily essentials, such as meals, were affected. As an emergency response, the Outreach & Social Concerns Ministry of Faith partnered Hope Initiatives Alliance (HIA) by sponsoring the daily meals of 100 workers living in a dormitory in Tuas. Special thanks to a sister who also sponsored sarongs to the workers which helped to lift up their spirits during the Hari Raya holiday.*

*Rev Eddie Ho oversees the Outreach & Social Concerns, FaithCARE and Family Life ministries at Faith. He is married to Elaine and they have one son.*

God's Grace is Sufficient.  
2 Cor 12:9  
**FAITH**  
Methodist Church  
Transforming Lives, Changing The World



FROM  
Faith Methodist Church

# THANK YOU

TO ALL FRONTLINE PERSONNEL FOR YOUR EFFORTS, BRAVERY AND DEDICATION!



# KOINONIA SG

## OUR SMALL GROUP LIFE DURING THE PANDEMIC

By Wee Chor Keong



***“By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”***  
***John 13:35***

Our Small Group, Koinonia, had been meeting on a weekly basis for a long time. This commitment was actually birthed out of adversity many years before, at a time when attendance was irregular, people were discouraged, and my wife and I even contemplated changing church. Hence, the weekly meetings have come to be precious to us. Today, we are a group of ten families with twenty-two children and an elderly gentleman. Therefore, when the circuit breaker measures were first announced, we felt apprehensive about the future of small group life.

***“... let us not neglect our meeting together ...”***  
***Hebrews 10:25***

Armed with this encouragement but still feeling uncertain at a time when “Zoom” was not in most people’s vocabulary, we decided to try meeting



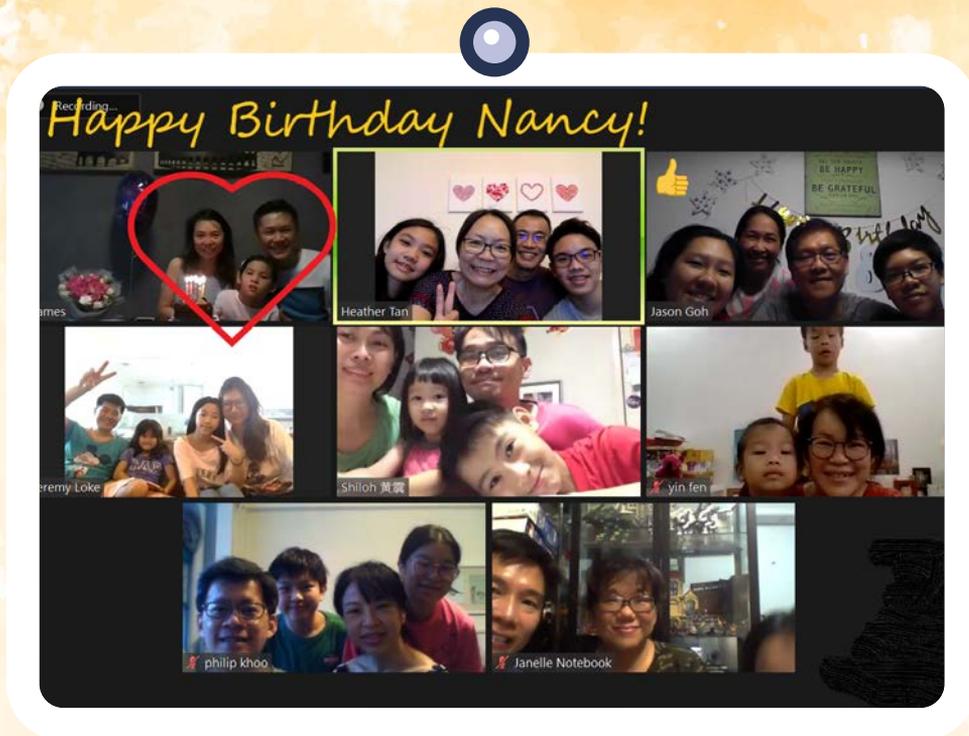
online. Many thoughts crossed my mind: Could people still share openly? Would the atmosphere be very cold? And more importantly, would people feel ministered?

***“I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you.”***  
***John 14:18***

After an initial trial with worship, sharing and prayer, one day we decided to introduce a Word element in our meeting. Given time constraints, our plan was to keep things simple: Have someone read a Scripture passage, followed by

meditation, and then sharing. We would just use whatever passage was assigned by the “Daily Bread” app.

One particular day, the assigned reading happened to be 2 Kings 6:13-17. When the Word was read, I almost teared. This was because just prior to the reading, some members had shared about the devastating impact of their company’s restructuring, others shared about financial challenges, while the rest shared about parenting challenges especially in close quarters. It seemed that everyone felt a sense of uncertainty given the pandemic situation.



Based on what our eyes could see, things looked very bleak. Yet this passage specifically reminded us of what we did not see: That the Lord's massive army was encamped around us! God had provided the precise words that we needed that day. We were seeking to do a simple Bible study, but the Word sought us out instead.

***"Rejoice with those who rejoice ..."***  
***Romans 12:15a***

During this circuit breaker period, we also had two members reach important milestones in their lives, their 50th birthdays! We had always celebrated such major events in the group

and nothing was going to stop us. On their actual birthdays, we sent a cake to each of their homes and also blessed them with a complete dinner for the family. Our SG then gathered around Zoom to sing and pray. The celebrations were really timely after such a long period of isolation.

***"And do not forget to do good and to share with others ..."***  
***Hebrews 13:16a***

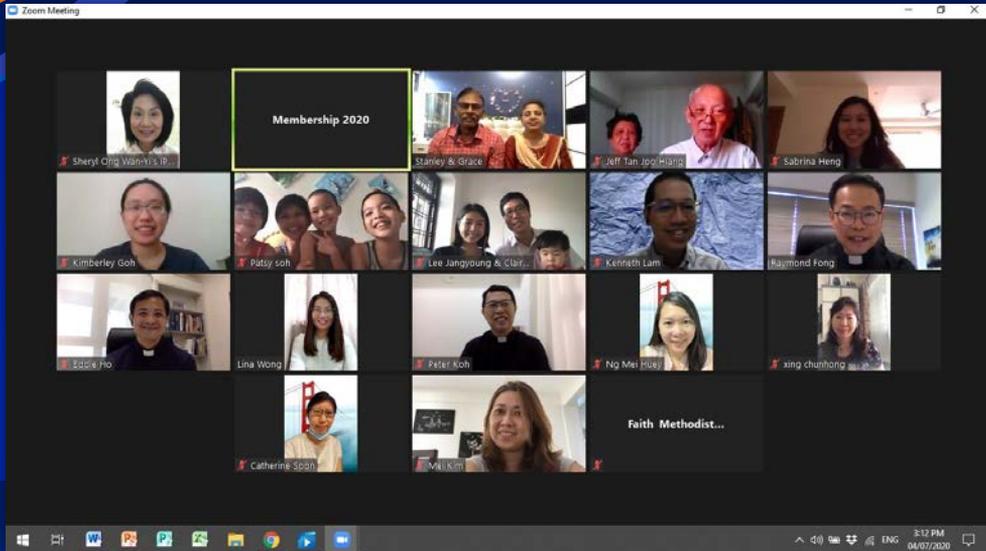
During this circuit breaker period, everyone was cooped up at home trying to make the best of the situation. All of us also had young children which could be challenging at times.

Soon, we began to hear stories of families in our group receiving surprise deliveries during the day! Some received cakes, some received coffee, others received food and even ice cream! In the middle of long weeks where the days seemed to merge, these treats were certainly welcomed and brought much smiles.

Now, as we journey ahead as a group in this current climate, there remains much uncertainty. However, one thing we know is that while distance may separate us, we are always together, for God has promised that ***"... where two or three gather in my Name, there am I with them."***  
***Matthew 18:20*** 

**Chor Keong** Chor Keong and his family enjoy church fellowship, movies, sports and ice-cream!

# WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS



Indeed, even in the midst of this current COVID-19 pandemic, there is no stopping what the Almighty God can do in the lives of those who love Him and are called according to His purposes as Christ's disciples.

And so let us rejoice together with these our brothers and sisters who were received into church membership on Saturday, 4 July

2020. They have journeyed through the process valiantly and faithfully. Let us give them a warm welcome into our Faith Church Family!

The service was conducted via zoom teleconferencing and was attended by the candidates' Small Group leaders, their families and friends.

## CONFIRMATION AND MEMBERSHIP

- Goh Jia Wen Kimberley
- Lina Wong
- Heng Sze Hui Sabrina

## MEMBERSHIP

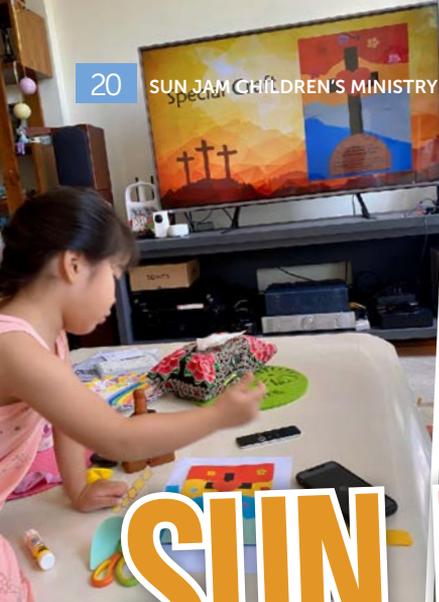
- Soon Yuen Yuen Catherine
- Xing Chun Hong
- Stanley Sundarraj
- Sundarraj Grace Hemalatha
- Jeff Tan Joo Hiang
- Lah Mei Kim

## TRANSFER FROM OTHER CHURCHES

- Ong Wan-Yi Sheryl  
(Grace Assembly of God)
- Lee Jangyoung  
(Mt Carmel Bible-Presbyterian Church)
- Claire Chew Sze Wei  
(Mt Carmel Bible-Presbyterian Church)
- Ng Mei Huey  
(Sungei Ara Christian Centre)

## TRANSFER FROM OTHER METHODIST CHURCHES

- Kenneth Lam Thuan Yang  
(Living Hope Methodist Church)
- Patsy Soh  
(Living Hope Methodist Church)



# SUN JAM @ HOME!

Find out how our SUN JAM children are keeping up to date with weekly Bible lessons.

By Pearly Sim

Is our church's SUN JAM children's programme ongoing? Yes it is, but with a difference!

During these unprecedented times due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we praise God that God's Word still goes out to our children in a MIGHTY way through our SUN JAM HBL (Home-Based Learning) Kit!

As God's Word says in Isaiah 55:11, "It is the same with my Word. I send it out, and it always produces fruit. It will accomplish all I want it to, and it will prosper everywhere I send it."

The SUN JAM HBL Kit comprises of the weekly video lessons, the e-copy version of the Take-Home Pre-Primary





lesson sheet, and an e-copy of our children's journal. This journal contains daily Huddle@Home devotional readings for children aged 7-12 years old, and is meant to be read together with their parents. Our prayer and hope is that the children and their parents will enjoy intimate moments with God's Word during this "huddle" time, and lead to a deepening of the child's faith in God.

The Christian faith is indeed best modelled at home. Deuteronomy 6:6-7 says, "These commandments that I give you

today are to be on your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home, and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up."

May faith arise in all homes as parents intentionally disciple their children and nurture them in their walk with God! God is moving in a fresh, new way in our Children's Ministry and we give thanks to God for His faithful protection and provision as we seek to continue to shepherd our children in our care! 🙏

We would like to share some photos of our pre-primary SUN JAM children who received a special craft in their mail which was lovingly prepared by their SUN JAM teachers. Enjoy the smiles of our children and the crafts that they made!

*Pearly Sim is the Pastoral Team Member for the Children's Ministry at Faith.*



# SUN JAM GOES ONLINE

By Cindy Ho

*Our SUN JAM teachers and kids were excited to meet up once again over Zoom! Thanks to technology, SUN JAM time is brought right into the children's homes. Although the Teachers and children miss meeting up physically, they still have loads of fun on-line. We thank God for our SJ Teachers who serve God faithfully in bringing God's Word to the children in creative ways and sharing God's love with them!*

*Kids, if you are reading this, have some fun and see if you can spot yourselves in the photos! 📷*

*Cindy Ho is the Assistant Pastoral Team Member for ONE JAM, Faith's ministry to children.*



SJ@11 P2 & P4



SJ@10.30 P1 & P2



SJ@9 Primary



GEMs Individual



SJ@11  
Kindi & Jolly



SJ@10.30 Jolly



SJ@9 Kindi

# Joel: God restores when we repent

7 June 2020



GEMs lesson on Zoom

# back TO SCHOOL

Parents' drop-off point at Level 1 near the canteen area

School reopened on Tuesday, 2 June 2020, beginning with the K1 and K2 children. The Pre-Nursery and Nursery children came back the week after on 8 June 2020.

School is not the same anymore. Children are given assigned seats on the floor and on the chairs, with their individual photos and names on it for the younger children, and names only for the older ones.

When they queue up or walk from one place to another, the children have to stand at least one metre apart, which is about one arm's length. During meal times, they have to sit diagonally opposite each other.

This is the new normal for our school right now. We thank God that our children are adjusting well with the safe distancing measures. Do continue to keep Faith Kindergarten in your prayers. 🙏

Queuing up one metre apart for their daily health checks and temperature taking



Waiting area in the Sanctuary while the class teacher brings the children to their classrooms in batches



Children practicing safe distancing measures by walking at least one arm's length away when there is no marking on the floor



Walking to class after being picked up by the class teacher from the Sanctuary



On the way to lunch using the staircase



Lining up to take food from the pantry



Our teachers preparing desk shields for the younger age group



Nursery children doing their work with the desk divider





# TACKLING COVID HEAD-ON

FaithActs ramps up its outreach measures to support their clients and stay connected with them. By Helen Wong

It has been a tumultuous six months since we ushered in the year 2020. Covid-19 has suddenly taken centre stage globally and caught many of us unprepared. Daily stories revolved mainly on statistics of infections and deaths, dampening our spirits.

The two-month circuit breaker rudely knocked us down with strict isolations and social distancing. All of us were forced to stay at home and had to avoid physical interaction, especially with the vulnerable groups. These restrictions greatly hindered our work at FaithActs, but we tackled the challenges the best we could.

We take heart that with the use of technology, we could still guide our youths with their school homework through Zoom and Whatsapp platforms. Online enrichment programmes were made available to continue engaging our youths. For our seniors, we communicated with them through telecare to show our concern and ease their anxiety with being cooped up at home. We also produced a video on our WOW exercise programme to help them continue their exercises at home.

Given the restrictions, we worked closely with government agencies to provide immediate assistance, such as meal deliveries to vulnerable families, and seniors in isolation. We continued to deliver basic essentials and groceries to their homes, and checked on those who were unreachable, just to ensure that they were safe.

## Going The Extra Mile

This period also showed us how physical basics alone were inadequate to meet the needs of these individuals and families. There are usually other social and health aspects that require attention as well. Since the nature of needs are diverse, we could no longer do the usual visitations during the circuit breaker and this compelled us to surrender to the Lord.

The circuit breaker has also awakened us to recognise that apart from Jesus, we are nothing. Our work is not just based on our expertise alone; more importantly, it is a partnership with the Lord in impacting and transforming lives. We experienced this in our work with \*Madam Lee.



Madam Lee suffers from depression, anxiety disorder and insomnia. Her husband was in the halfway house and she was all alone at home with no family support. Madam Lee lost her part-time job in February and had not been successful in sourcing for another job. Her savings were depleting and she felt extremely insecure and lost.

She was worried about her day-to-day living expenses and the Covid situation aggravated her condition. While Madam Lee had gone to the Social

*\*Not her real name*

Service Office for financial aid, there was still a wait time of at least four weeks that she had to bear with before the financial support commenced. FaithActs stepped in and provided her with groceries and household items to tide her through.

## Battling Fear Through Prayer

However, fear gripped her even further with each passing day, to the point that she would sometimes turn hysterical and even threaten suicide. Madam Lee needed more attention than other clients. We visited her a few times a week to check on her and help her process her thoughts.

When the circuit breaker measures were announced, it was our turn to be desperate. What if Madam Lee attempted suicide again? How could we be readily accessible to her during such a time? How could we even run to her if something happened with us all working from home? There was little we could do except to pray and surrender her to the Lord.

Prayer certainly works. Through telecare, we had the opportunity to send encouragement and prayers, and pointed her to the Lord Jesus. Madam Lee had left the church for some time, but by the grace of God, she came back to the Lord. She started to receive financial support from a few sources, and this eased her financial burden. Then, her husband was given

an early "release" and he came out in May instead of November, which was the original plan.

Through this, she realised how the Lord had provided for her in such a timely manner during this season. Now, she has started reading the Bible and praying to the Lord daily, and she shared that she feels an inner peace and assurance. Madam Lee expressed her gratitude and is learning to submit herself to the Lord's will, waiting patiently for the Lord's healing upon her mental health and for a suitable job. The Lord has turned her daily cries into joy.

## God's Plans Are Higher Than Ours

For the team at FaithActs, there were some disappointing and frustrating moments for us. Many times, we felt helpless because there were so many things that we needed to do but were not allowed to during the circuit

breaker. While we know very well that the Lord is in control, our human nature tends to run ahead of Him, such that we take matters into our own hands.

One of the key lessons we learnt during this period was that while we rush into a quick fix, the Lord always has a better plan.

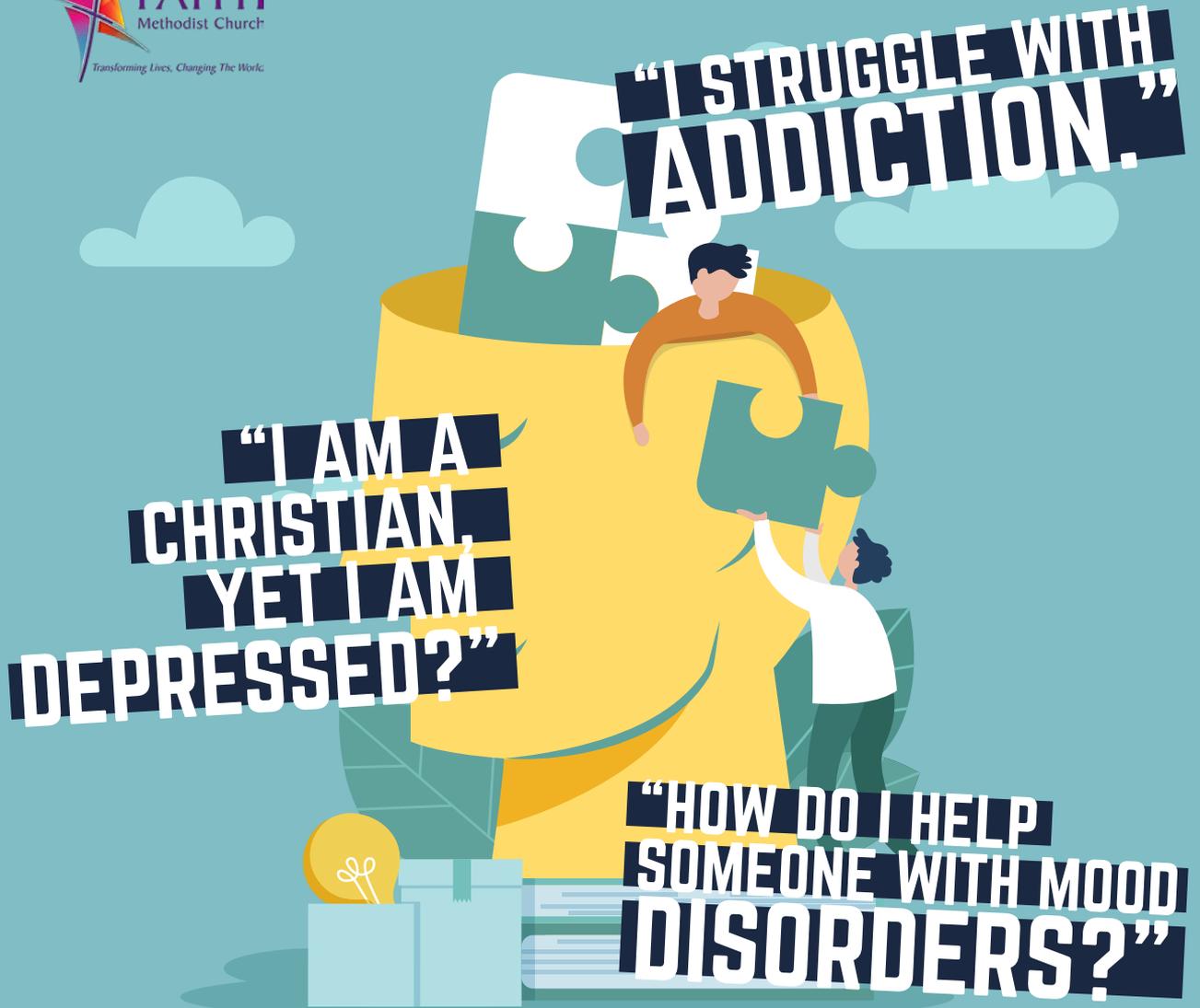
This circuit breaker was intended to curb the spread of Covid-19. But it is also a time for us to focus on Christ, the Builder of our lives. It is a time for us to pause and check ourselves, realign ourselves to His will so that we can move in His assignment when we "resume business" in full gear.

Despite the interruptions and disruptions over all our plans for this year, God is certainly in control and is above the situation. We raise a Hallelujah to God Almighty because He deserves all the glory! 🙌

*Helen Wong is the Community Care Executive at FaithActs.*

*We would like to convey our thanks to individuals and corporations who have made a contribution in cash or in kind. You have made a difference in our community, particularly during this challenging period. In such times, every support is appreciated. We seek your participation by donating to FaithActs via <http://www.faithacts.org.sg/donate>.*





If you, or someone you know, can relate to this, sign up for the next **Conversations@Faith!** We will discuss what it means when a Christian struggles with mental health issues and how we, as the Body of Christ, can respond in love to those who are struggling.

There will be four workshops after the plenary session:

SUICIDE AND SELF-HARM  
MOOD DISORDERS  
ADDICTIONS  
CREATING A SAFE SPACE IN THE CHURCH

**THERE IS ALSO A TRACK SPECIALLY  
FOR THE YOUTHS!**

**CONVERSATIONS@FAITH:  
MENTAL HEALTH  
SATURDAY,  
29 AUGUST 2020  
9AM – 3PM  
VENUE/PLATFORM:  
ONLINE (LINK TBC)**

# EXTENDING GOD'S

## *Hope and Love*

COVID-19 Relief Ministry in our Acts 1:8 Fields.

By Anna Tan

We have experienced much stress and disruptions to our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our Acts 1:8 mission fields have likewise not been spared. With the cessation of economic activities, many have lost their means of survival. Basic needs such as food, water and medication are in shortage. With scarce resources to begin with, the aged, poor, least and the last in the developing nations, are often clueless about what is going on and much less able to protect themselves.

That said, while the situation seemed bleak and distressing, it opened up many opportunities for our church to extend God's love and hope in very practical ways. Since the start of the pandemic, we have used what God has blessed our church with, to bless the nations around us. Our local partners in the fields have also used this opportunity to further engage and reach out to the people around them. We praise the Lord for His faithful servants, and for watching over, protecting, and providing for His people. All glory to God!

Here are some testimonies from the various Acts 1:8 fields:



### Upper Room Preaching Point Phnom Penh, Cambodia

My name is **Eal Chann**, village chief of Kpob Veng Village. I am very happy and at a loss for words because of the help we received from Faith Methodist Church for the people of this village. There are some villagers here who have lost their jobs and are facing a crisis in their families due to the COVID-19 pandemic. I want to thank the Upper Room community and Faith Methodist Church, who have expressed their concern and given help to the villagers in Kpob Veng. May God bless you with peace.

My name is **Sok Theareath**, youth leader in Upper Room. I rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ as I see Faith Methodist Church extending her help to us and bringing food supplies to our members and the villagers. Many of us are facing difficulties and challenges during this COVID-19 pandemic. Your generosity has caused me to love God even more and to trust God more in my life, for I know that God is always with us and will help us. May God bless Faith Methodist Church and cause her to grow more and more.



**Glory New Life Church  
SPK Myanmar**

We praise the Lord that He has been good to us in times of trouble because of your great support for our community where 300 families have received the donation. Our youth also helped with the distribution. For the community who live around us, we invited them to come to the church building to receive the items. We also brought the items to Singpong village and Ward II; the people were so happy. Our heartfelt thanks go to Faith Methodist Church for your generosity and for standing with us in times of need and trouble. We are also greatly blessed to be a blessing to our community. ~ **Pastor Michael Khual Tawng**



**Grace of God Church  
Shwepyithar Myanmar**

I am **U Thong**, and I am a disabled man. Even though I am disabled, I don't want to beg. Every day, I go out to find jobs so I can buy my food. But because of the lockdown, I could not go outside to look for jobs. I now have no food. I don't have family and relatives to help me but God has sent the church with provisions to help me. God is alive forever.

We have no more food for the coming week. For me only, it is not a big problem. I can stay at home without food. But I have three younger children and I do not want to see them without food. I want to find any jobs that can help me to bring food home for my children, but I could not find any job to do. Now God has answered our prayer and we have rice and cooking oil given to me through the church.





## Hmong Villages Vietnam

The Hmong church sends prayers and thanks to our brothers and sisters in Faith Methodist Church in Singapore. Thank you for the donations of rice and noodles to the people here. May God bless you and your families and pastors. Once again, we thank you for the encouragement. May God bless you!



## Pathway Fellowship Siem Reap Cambodia

Thank you so much for your generous and kind heart during this time of struggle. I would like to express my thanks and gratefulness to our spiritual family in Singapore who understand our needs. My family and I are really happy to receive this gift because we are now facing difficult times. Thank you so much for this loving gift and for caring for us. May God bless you and be with you all anywhere and anytime. ~ **Makara**

My name is **Chan Sopheak**, a youth in Pathway Fellowship Church in Cambodia. I rejoice in the Lord Jesus Christ for the great things that Faith Methodist Church has done in providing for some of our poor villagers. As you know, in this tough time, many people in my country are living in difficult situations. Because of God's love upon you, you have shared His love to others. This kindness has made me know more that God never forsakes His people but will always stay beside us. May God bless Faith Methodist Church to grow more and more!

Indeed, God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble (Psalms 46:1). Like the people in our mission fields, may we trust God in these difficult times, and be encouraged to take hold of all opportunities to share His comfort, love, hope and peace. 🙏

*Anna worships at the 11am service with her husband, Shaun. She serves with two ministries at Faith: Missions and Community, Youth, Family. (CYF).*

# KAIROS

GOD, THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD



The Kairos Course is a nine-session, interactive course on World Christian mission, designed to educate, inspire and challenge Christians to active and meaningful participation.

This course utilizes a variety of adult learning styles including group discussions, short lecture introduction, devotions, video teaching and student participation in specially designed activities.

Kairos looks at the four main areas of mission concern which are the Biblical, Historical, Strategic and Cultural dimensions of mission.

**Online Kairos Class starting in September via ZOOM!**

## **9 TUESDAY NIGHTS**

- 15/9, 22/9, 29/9, 6/10, 13/10, 20/10, 27/10, 3/11, 10/11
- 7.30pm to 9.30pm

## **1 SATURDAY MORNING SESSION**

- 14/11
- 9.30am to 12noon



Course fees: **\$50**  
**\$30** (special rate for Faith members and regular worshippers)

Course fees include Kairos coursebook and other reading materials

Register via the link ([goo.gl/cxJYpt](https://goo.gl/cxJYpt)) by **30 August 2020**.  
For enquiries please email [jimaiawong@faithmc.sg](mailto:jimaiawong@faithmc.sg)

# RETHINKING MISSIONS

Faith continues its mission work during the pandemic.

By Jimaia Wong

When COVID-19 reached the shores of Singapore and the surrounding nations, the Missions ministry had to quickly rethink its strategy in continuing with our ministry to the nations. We are thankful that over the past few months, the Lord has shown us that missions can continue, albeit differently. Through different platforms, we were able to connect with our mission workers and also the communities in our mission fields.

## Online Sharing Sessions with Mission Workers

The Missions Ministry organized two online sharing sessions via YouTube "live" with our mission workers based in Japan (Larry and Susan Lai) and Thailand (Vincent and Phyllis Lim). These teleconferencing sessions allowed our members to hear from our mission workers as they shared updates about their ministries and how they were currently coping.

The viewers were also able to interact with them by asking questions via the live chat. Many of the members were interested to know how they could share the gospel and do

discipleship in the Japanese and Thai context. Others were interested to know more about future short-term opportunities to support the mission workers in their ministries.

We will have more of such sharing sessions in the months ahead; do keep a lookout on our website and social media channels.

## Training Sessions via Teleconferencing

Other than connecting with our mission workers, we also conducted trainings for our local partners in our Acts 1:8 fields.

In May 2020, we invited Mrs Pauline Chia, Principal of Faith Kindergarten, to conduct a sharing session with five pre-school teachers of LEC, Myanmar. LEC is the ministry of Glory New Life Church whom we partner in our ministry in SPK, Myanmar.

Pauline introduced the teachers on how to incorporate art and craft and physical activities in their pre-school lessons. In addition, with her experience in pre-school education, she was able to answer questions





that the teachers had. The teachers in Myanmar found the session so helpful that they requested for more regular Zoom time. Therefore in June, a second session was organised and this time the teachers learned more about child psychology from one of our young adults, Petrina Quek. As a result of these sessions, the teachers were very motivated to apply what they had learnt to bless their children in their community.

**From Singapore With Love**

One of our church members, Samuel Lim, teamed up with fellow church member, Phoon Kum Yuen, the field coordinator of our Acts 1:8 field in Shwepyithar, Myanmar, to start a community

project for the church and orphanages there. It was such an encouragement to see a blessing initiative that started in Singapore, which was extended to bless the communities in our Acts 1:8 fields. Read more about Samuel’s mask project on page 34.

Other than these formal training sessions, many of our members and regular trippers are also connecting with the communities in the Acts 1:8 fields on their own accord. For instance, one of Faith’s Small Groups, *Family Connect 2*, who has been visiting our Acts 1:8 field in Surabaya annually, organised an online Zoom session with the Indonesian youths where they spent time together in worship, prayer and fellowship.

In times like these, the Lord is showing us that the Church is not just a building but part of the larger Body of Christ. And as the Body of Christ, we can continue to be His hands and feet wherever He has placed us, be it to bless the local communities or to bless the nations. Nothing can stop God’s mission from going

forth; we just need to ask for His wisdom and discernment, to rethink and recalibrate. 🙏

*Jimaia is the Pastoral Team Member overseeing missions. She enjoys a strong cup of coffee and hearing stories from our mission workers and Acts 1:8 fields.*

# SEWN IN LOVE: A SINGAPOREAN MASK-MAKING INITIATIVE THAT IS BLESSING A COMMUNITY IN MYANMAR

By Samuel Lim

When the circuit breaker was imposed in Singapore and the outbreak went viral within the migrant worker dormitories, there was a heightened sense of emergency. At that time, surgical masks were in short supply due to logistical disruptions globally.

Reusable fabric masks quickly became a *de facto* alternative to help prevent further spread of the virus and there was a community-wide initiative to seek volunteers to help sew masks for the migrant workers and other vulnerable groups in Singapore.

With support from some of my Small Group members, family and friends, a team of us rallied into action. We formed a home-based project known as "Mask Sewn With Love", and started to produce and distribute fabric masks through this initiative.

***Anything that we do without the Lord's help and blessing amounts to nothing.***  
*Psalm 127:1*

Working under circuit breaker constraints, we organised ourselves into teams of cutters and sewers, procured materials online, and moved goods between homes through commercial delivery services. While some of us had never sewn before, we thank God for YouTube as we were able to quickly self-learn through the social media platform.

## Making the Masks

Within two weeks, the modus operandi was smoothly in motion. We had a weekly turnover; working by day, sewing masks in the evenings, and posting out the finished masks by Sunday afternoons. God is good! He provides according to His will, in any situation.

What naturally ensued was the thought of giving these masks to our brothers and sisters in Myanmar. We were quite certain that the scarcity of mask supplies would affect Myanmar as it did in Singapore! Hence, together with Phoon Kum Yuen,





the field coordinator for our *Acts 1:8* field in Shwepyithar, Myanmar, we decided to make the masks in Singapore and courier the finished products to Myanmar.

Unfortunately, this plan could not materialise due to postal disruptions. God revealed His plans for us with another alternative: That we were to teach and equip our Myanmar partners with the skills needed to make these reusable fabric masks on their own.

In the month of May, we held several online sessions for our friends in Myanmar using Zoom. Sessions were broken into two parts; a theoretical segment and a practical demonstration, which was conducted using a live streaming app from a smartphone. The mask design that we taught them was a three-layer fabric composition with a pocket to insert a filter for an additional layer of protection.

## Blessing Beyond Borders

***And He will multiply what you bring unto Him. 2 Cor. 9:10***

It was a blessing to have learnt a new skill during the circuit breaker, and in return, have the opportunity to pass the knowledge on. The participants who attended the sessions included those from Grace of God Church, Faith Children Centre, Mother Home and the Makarios Orphanage.

I was very encouraged to know that through the online tutorials, the communities in Myanmar were able to make sufficient masks for all the children under their care. The church



was also able to bless the community around them by supplying masks to those in need.

We are thankful to God for this opportunity to bless our friends in Myanmar. There is also a comforting sense of fulfilment knowing that should COVID-19 persist in the long term, there is a group of people in Myanmar who are able to provide a sustainable and economic viable solution for face masks.

***\*Special thanks to Cheryl, Donna, Michelle, Shirley, Youya, and their families in this mask-making project. 🙏***

*Samuel and his family attends the 10.30am service and is part of Lighthouse Small Group. Samuel also serves in the Makarios mission team that reaches out to our Acts 1:8 field in Shwepyithar, Myanmar.*

# CHECKING IN

What are our Faith MC's mission workers up to during this pandemic?

Compiled by Jimaia Wong

**C** OVID-19 has exacerbated social problems, especially for the poor, needy and the marginalised communities in Singapore. I've been more busy than usual, doing Community Development work with lots of Zoom meetings, phone calls and also serving with the Trolley ministry, reaching out to the homeless on the streets in Singapore.

At the start of the circuit breaker (CB), we met more people loitering around aimlessly, because for some, home was not a safe place. Our hearts were filled with His compassion for the broken in our communities. Yet, because of the circuit breaker, we are heartened to see unity and partnerships like never before, how different places opened their premises to become a shelter for them (read story on page XXX about Faith opening up her church premises to shelter the homeless in Singapore).

God is at work on the streets, in the hearts of man, including you and I, as we continue to be His hands and feet. We are amazed to see how He reveals Himself, and overjoyed to witness our friends on the streets taking steps forward and how they have moved into shelters. Two of them have also managed to get separate rental flats through expedited processes during the circuit breaker.

Jesus is alive and real, living and walking in the streets in Singapore. Pray for strength and wisdom for us, and for God to reveal Himself to our friends and to us.

**Ruth Lew,**

*Local Mission Worker with Youth with a Mission Singapore*



I have to admit that the circuit breaker had an adverse effect on me. I experienced a “shut down” of sorts. How do I minister to someone when I cannot come in contact with them? That question kept throbbing in my head the initial few weeks. I confessed that I was not very productive in the whole of April.

Thankfully, the leadership team in Singapore Youth for Christ (SYFC) was more proactive. Within the first few days of the CB period, the leadership decided to conduct an online orientation training on the use of Zoom. All staff were required to be present to try and familiarise ourselves with the intricate functions of Zoom. The different ministries within SYFC had to brainstorm and come out with games, webinars and activities that could be carried out over the different e-platforms.

For me, my ministry churned out “The 3S Challenge”, a series of activities meant to challenge young people on their different senses, like

identifying songs and movie lines, puzzles to test their sight and speed. We had over 30 participants in the activity.

On a more personal level, I was able to continue meeting two young men weekly for our one-on-one Bible reading over Zoom. In fact, because of the CB, I was able to be more consistent with one of them, who is currently in National Service. We were able to finish reading three chapters of the book of Jonah within three weeks.

This year was also supposed to be the first time I partnered my wife in our roles as Team Leaders to 13 youth leaders in TTB. Thankfully, our 13 group leaders are still quite supportive of the idea to meet once a week as we supervise them in their leading of their Secondary One youths. Please continue to uphold us in your prayers as we learn to minister in this new normal.

**Lionel Chan,**  
*Local Mission Worker with Singapore Youth for Christ.*

The first time I heard about the Zoom app was when I first joined Interserve Singapore about a year ago. It is used regularly to keep in touch with field workers.

As a result of the circuit breaker due to COVID-19, we have been using this video conferencing app with increasing confidence for team meetings, prayer, small group meetings, mentoring, and to conduct online training and Bible study.

Once we even played Pictionary on Zoom, which helped to keep our sanity as a team. Interestingly, I had more opportunities to build relationships with my Beloved neighbours in the past three months. Praise God!

**Esther Ong,**  
*Local Mission Worker with Interserve Singapore*  
*\*Due to the sensitive nature of Esther’s ministry, photos cannot be shown*



During the circuit breaker period, I conducted a series of Bible Study sessions on 1 and 2 Kings on seven Saturdays in April and May through video broadcast. I also wrote articles for Eagles Vantagepoint monthly e-news.

To view the Bible study videos, you can visit <http://www.eagles.org.sg/er>. To read my article on preaching, you can click on <http://www.eagles.org.sg/vantagepoint-feb-2020/>. Administratively, I am also conducting Zoom meetings with Staff every Monday and Thursday, and with other project committees at various times. 📍

**Michael Tan,**  
*Local Mission Worker with Eagles Communications*

*Jamaia is a Pastoral Team Member overseeing Missions.*

# THE POST-COVID-19 LANDSCAPE FOR MISSIONS

Contributed by Bishop Emeritus Robert Solomon

The world is being shaken by the Covid-19 pandemic. Apocalyptic scenes from around the world are being conveyed to our screens.

***"I have destroyed nations; their strongholds are demolished. I have left their streets deserted, with no one passing through. Their cities are laid waste; they are deserted and empty."***  
***(Zephaniah 3:6, NIV)***

How contemporary these words sound today!

If God has allowed such scenes, it is for a purpose – to turn us to Him with meekness and humility so that we can trust Him (v12).



He loves us and will accomplish His purposes. His presence is with us even in the worst of times.

***"The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing"***  
***(v17, ESV)***

Here is a wonderful picture of God's love. Like a mother who sings a lullaby over her troubled child, the Lord comforts us when we are afraid or disturbed. In this metaphor, God is not only singing a lullaby but sings loudly over His children. There is a combination of motherly tenderness as well as fatherly exuberance.

All this is to say that the sovereign Lord is ruling over what appears to be unruly tragedy. When the pandemic ends (and it is anyone's guess when) what will the world look like? We can think about what the implications are for world missions.

There are three areas that may have significant influence in the



way missions is carried out in the post-pandemic period.



### Socio-Economic Situations

One of the realities that the Covid-19 pandemic is showing up are the weaknesses of economic and social systems and structures across the board. The plight of the poor and marginalised has been highlighted, though much more is hidden from the media's eyes and ears. The worst-affected are those who have been living from hand to mouth, whose resources are limited and who have been living on the edge, only to be pushed over the cliff by the pandemic and its many effects – including loss of jobs and access to food and health services.

When the dust settles, it would be necessary to rebuild and restore. The world and societies and individuals would have deep scars that would need healing – through loss of loved ones, jobs and businesses. Social inequalities must be addressed and corrected. Action must be taken by governments and other bodies to help build resilience into the economy and social network. People should not be forced to live on the cliff edges, but be given an adequate buffer for unexpected crises, which are bound to trouble us from time to time. Global economics need to be fixed so that fairness and compassion are built-in values.

The implication for missions is that we must review how we address social inequities and needs. Beyond providing relief (which will continue to be relevant), there is a need to address structural and chronic inequities, to advocate for real and deep changes that would help the disadvantaged and powerless. The frailties of health care services in many places have been exposed and will need to be addressed. There are huge implications for medical missions. Creative Christian thinkers, practitioners and activists need to find ways to build resilience, sustainability

and agility in societies, especially among the poor and disadvantaged.



### Internet and Communication Technologies

The pandemic has brought to the fore the role of the internet and communication technologies. Churches around the world that had to close down their regular services and ministries have moved to online communication, broadcasting their services and doing their ministries and administration through Zoom meetings and so on. This heightened (and for many, new) use of online means and social media will remain as new ways of doing church in the future. It is interesting that more people are attending live-streaming services than has been the case in physical gatherings.

The implication for missions is that churches and mission agencies will develop new methods of carrying out missions. They can reach wider and deeper and will have opportunities to modify their methods. This is not to say that the need for face-to-face ministry and presence on the ground can be replaced. But we may have new tools to do this.

## Spiritual Needs

During the pandemic, many people may be quietly reviewing the meaning of life, the foundations and directions of their lives, and what really matters to them. They may have come face to face with their anxieties, including the fear of death. All this is to say, that many human hearts are being quietly ploughed by the Holy Spirit, making them fertile ground for the sowing of the seed of God's Word.

Post-pandemic, there is a great opportunity to minister to ploughed hearts and ready minds by proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. What the Lord Jesus said 2000 years ago would be as relevant today and tomorrow as it was then. Jesus told His disciples, "The harvest is plentiful" (Luke 10:2). He also said, "Open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest!" (John 4:35). Because of the potentially plentiful harvest, Jesus also said, "Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to

send out workers into his harvest field" (Luke 10:2).

The pandemic has created a sense of urgency among believers. I know of young people who are thinking about what they will do with their lives. With all the reflections that are going on in their hearts, we pray that there may be fresh waves of witnesses, evangelists and missionaries who will commit themselves for the urgent and clear proclamation of the gospel to a needy and dying world.

Both the world and the church must resist the temptation of going back to previous comfort levels and the status quo. We must go beyond playing church within our four walls. Already local churches are being led to think of who their real neighbours are.

In Singapore, there is a growing number of churches that are opening their premises to homeless migrant workers and reaching out to the poor and needy through

acts of mercy and generosity. This is a positive development, that hopefully will stay and develop further.

As churches sense the needy world around them, there is great potential that their eyes will be opened to see the ripe harvest fields, and that many would go out to a world that desperately and urgently needs the love and truth of Christ.

The church that remains full of faith and trust amid death has a message to proclaim and demonstrate to a world gripped by the fear of death. All because we worship and follow the Lord who conquered sin and death, the ultimate problems in our lost and hurting world.

Missions will be affected in the near future as motives and methods are reviewed and renewed, even as the message of the gospel of Christ must continue to be clearly and convincingly proclaimed. 

- Article reprinted with permission.
- Article first published on <https://www.scgm.org.sg/the-post-covid-19-landscape-for-global-missions/>



# HOPE IN THE STORM

COME AND JOIN US IN A CONVERSATION ABOUT HAVING  
CONFIDENCE IN THE MIDST OF UNCERTAINTY AND HOW TO WALK  
THROUGH THE UNKNOWN WITH CERTAIN HOPE.

**Tuesday, 28 July 2020 | 8.00pm**  
**Link: [faithmc.sg/GoodNews](https://faithmc.sg/GoodNews)**

Since the onset of COVID-19, the world we are familiar with has been turned upside down. With no cure or end in sight, the volatility, uncertainty, complexity and ambiguity (VUCA) of the pandemic has upended lives. Social distancing, loss of income and fear of infection are the fabrics of the new normal. Stress and anxiety are elevated as humankind battles the virus and adapts to the unknown.

Having little or no control over what lies ahead, we hold on tightly to all that are familiar with – wealth, health, career, friendships, material goods and more. Yet insecurity still overwhelms our being and the search goes on.

As the world looks towards a solution in this current storm, is there a hope we can cling to? Is there an answer for the volatilities, uncertainties, complexities and ambiguities we face?



MEET YOUR HOST  
**Christine Cheah**

Christine Cheah is a Finance professional for more than 15 years. She is married with a daughter. Currently worshipping at Faith Methodist Church and serves as Chairperson of the Witness & Evangelism ministry.

Once was lost and hurting, her life was touched and transformed by God. Having shared with others about the true meaning of life, she is excited to tell others about her faith and encourage them to personally experience the love of God.



GUEST SPEAKER  
**Rev Raymond Fong**

Trained and worked as a lawyer, Rev Raymond Fong is now the Pastor-in-charge of Faith Methodist Church.

Having journeyed through varied life experiences, he is passionate about helping people find hope in the midst of trying times. He hopes to share about a certain hope as an anchor for our souls in this uncertain season we are in.



# ALPHA ONLINE

Our Small Group's journey in taking Alpha from the physical to the virtual world.

By Lee May Yin

In line with the church's focus on One Mission, our Small Group (SG) *G.L.O.W* decided to host our own Alpha series in January 2020. We planned it such that we would meet every fortnight to cover all 13 sessions. This meant that our sessions would span the first half of the year.

## Alpha Begins!

In our first meeting, better known in Alpha as "Introduction Night", we had a total of seven guests and nine SG members. God brought a diverse group of people, and, barring some initial awkwardness, we hit it off well – enjoying a meal,

getting to know each other and learning together.

Besides the main meetings, our group members met on our "off weeks" with two main objectives – to reflect on the previous session, and plan for the session ahead.

We went through the logistical and operational aspects.

- Did we start and end on time?
- How was the food and was it enough?
- Are the seating arrangements comfortable for our guests and conducive for the discussion?

- Did everyone have an opportunity to ask questions and express themselves?
- We should remind each other to summarize and repeat key takeaway points.

These debriefing meetings definitely helped us improve our subsequent meetings and gave us a renewed sense of purpose, mission and excitement.

## Continuing Alpha Online

In March 2020, our group was in the thick of our Alpha sessions when COVID-19 struck. With progressive restrictions on physical gatherings, we had to make



a decision to postpone or move our meetings to a virtual platform.

After prayerful consideration, we decided to proceed with the latter, trusting that God, who sees the end from the beginning, would honour the schedule and plans that we had committed to Him in December 2019.

Due to various personal reasons, compounded by the COVID-19 situation and the move from physical to virtual, we only saw one to two guests per session, and in some instances, there were no guests at all. However, the rest of us continued to pray for these new friends.

### Growing Beyond Alpha

The one key thing that I've learnt throughout my past Alpha experiences is to maintain contact and develop relationships with our pre-believer friends and to join them in their exciting journey of discovering our Lord and Saviour, in and outside Alpha.

The technicalities and challenges of having Alpha online were certainly



something that we had to wrestle with and overcome. We missed eating together and the iconic "Weekend Away" had to be adapted to an online format with some missing elements.

While online meetings may inevitably compromise on the warmth and the depth of sharing that we have in physical meetings, I do not think this is something that cannot be overcome with some patience and effort.

On the other hand, virtually visiting people in the comforts of their home offers an incredible opportunity to get to know people in an intimate setting. We also enjoyed the rather unhurried atmosphere as we did not have to constantly keep our eyes on the clock and end exactly on time since we did not need to travel home.

This experience is certainly a reminder that the church is not confined to her four walls. And the promise that God will be with us whenever we gather in His name (Matthew 18:20) holds true, whether physical or virtual! 📍

*May Yin belongs to G.L.O.W Small Group and has been serving faithfully as an Alpha Facilitator.*



## TIPS TO START ALPHA ONLINE

Get in touch with the Alpha Team at Faith.

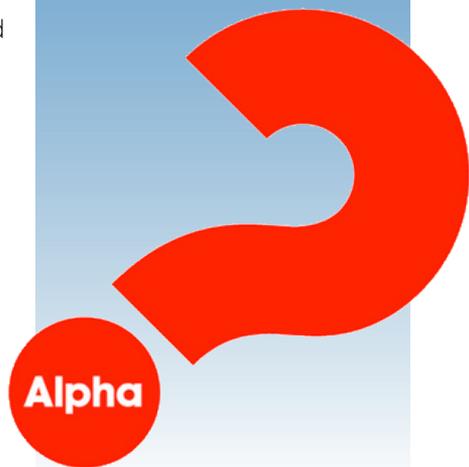
Get familiar with the platform you choose (Skype, Zoom, etc).

Incorporate some fun elements like ice-breakers or singing together.

Help guests to get familiar with the hardware and online platform. Do this ahead of your scheduled Alpha meeting.

Appoint someone in the group to be in charge of technical matters.

Test run the session to ensure that the sound and visuals are in order.





# ONE MISSION SMALL GROUP CONFERENCE

Saturday, 23 January 2021  
Faith Methodist Church

## OUR PLENARY SESSIONS

### Discovering & Embracing My One Mission

What is the 'one mission' that God has purposed for you and your small group? Discover your unique mission as a group, starting with your own personal journey to the center of your soul and discover what you need to wholly embrace your role in Christ's Great Commission.

### Happenings Here At Faith

You've heard it said that God has done great things through our church family. Now hear the tales, quests and journeys of those who have partnered Him in the Great Commission, transforming lives and changing the world.

From small groups to mission workers, from local outreach to overseas missions, listen to their stories. Then, receive God's invitation to join Him in various opportunities to serve in the harvest field.

## OUR BREAKOUT SESSIONS

### Buddying Youths for Jesus

Learn how to reach out to pre-believing youths through creative activities that build relationships and introduce Christian values and principles. Get to know the different approaches to youth outreach and get practical handles to work with youths both locally and overseas.

### Building A Home Away From Home: Outreach At My Doorstep

As Tanglin Halt residents move out in 2020, we expect an influx of migrant workers in our community who are in the construction industry. This session prepares you and your small group to understand and be equipped for this upcoming ministry opportunity.

### Christ Across Cultures: Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally

Culture can affect our understanding and reception of the gospel. Some theologies emphasises the forgiveness of sins, but people in many other nations seek honour or spiritual power. Come and learn how the Bible speaks to cultures of guilt, shame and fear, and how we can be culturally sensitive and relevant as we bring the gospel across cultures.

### Do it the Science Way!

Learn how to design Bible-based, science-inspired outreach programmes to engage children in your local outreach or mission trip. Pick up easy science activities that help you convey biblical truths in a creative and educational way. Children's outreach will never be the same again!

### Harvest as Lifestyle in My Small Group

"Harvest" is one of the purposes of a Faith small group. Hear the stories of small groups who have been intentionally incorporating this into their group life, and learn how you can do so too.

### Putting The Power Back in Empowerment

What is the difference between humanitarian and mission trips? How can we bring transformative development to local communities? Even though we may have good intentions, sometimes we can dis-enable people instead of empowering them. This interactive session is a brief introduction to a biblical approach to community transformation.

### Telling Christ's Story through Me: Sharing My Personal Testimony

You do not need to be a professional writer or storyteller or even an extrovert to share your testimony effectively. Get practical tips on how to tell your personal story of God's faithfulness with someone. Learn how to structure your personal testimony in a friendly, non-threatening way so that you can share it briefly in less than 5 minutes in your conversations with pre-believers.

### The Gospel Made Simple and Easy

God uses ordinary people like us to share the love of Jesus Christ. You do not need to be a pastor, a Bible teacher, or a seasoned evangelist. Just be yourself, a disciple of our Lord Jesus Christ. This session will equip you to share the Gospel in the simplest way possible, so that whenever and wherever an opportunity arises, you are ready to be a witness with the help of the Holy Spirit.

### Breakout Sessions (Mandarin)

#### 分组学习班 1：分享福音，简单轻松！

上帝用像你我等普通人来分享耶稣基督的爱。您不需要是牧师、圣经学者或传教士。祂用的就是你，主耶稣的门徒。这个学习班将教导您怎么用简易的方式分享福音，让您随时随地当可在圣灵的带领下为耶稣做见证。

#### 分组学习班 2：分享个人见证：耶稣的故事，由我开始！

您不需要是一位专业的作家，不需要会讲故事，也不需要性格外向也可以有效地分享你的见证。这个学习班将帮助你掌握实际的技巧，让你学会如何与他人分享你个人的故事，让听者了解上帝的信实。您将学习如何构建并分享个人见证，好让你能够用不到五分钟，以友好、无威胁的方式把自己的故事融入与未信者的交谈中。

### CHILDRENS' PROGRAMME

There will be a separate program for children, from 5 to 12 years old, which will be running concurrently with the adult's program.

### MANDARIN SESSIONS

Our Mandarin-speaking congregation will have a separate plenary and breakout sessions.

### PLUS, THERE IS MORE:

- Get a chance to have in-depth "Conversations with Harvesters".
- Explore opportunities to serve as an individual and as a Small Group.

Registration will be open soon.

For more details, visit our church website at <http://faithmc.sg/omsgc> or click the QR code below:



# OUR SPEAKER PROFILES



## Ms Anna Tan:

*Buddying Youths for Jesus*

Anna is a professional trainer at Stillwaters Services Pte Ltd and the ministry chairperson of our CYF (Community.Youth.Family) Ministry. She believes every youth is fearfully and wonderfully made in the image of God and dearly loved by Him, and passionately works towards helping every youth come to know, trust and find hope in the Father.



## Ms Jiamin Choo:

*Christ Across Cultures:  
Communicating Christ  
Cross Culturally*

Jiamin is one of Faith's local mission workers. She serves as Missions Coordinator with Operation Mobilisation (OM), where she leads the work in engaging both churches and individuals for missions. Her passion is to journey with young people, encouraging them to draw nearer to God and to His heart for the nations. She also serves as a contributing writer to Kallos, Singapore's first Christian magazine for young women, where she pens the devotional column. She has served on board OM's ship Doulos and wrote *Out of the Harbour*, based on her missions journey in over 30 countries.



## Rev Raymond Fong

Rev Raymond Fong is the Pastor-in-Charge of Faith Methodist Church.



## Dr Tan Lai Yong:

*Building A Home Away  
From Home: Outreach At  
My Doorstep*

Lai Yong serves as the Director for Outreach & Community Engagement, Resident Fellow and Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore (College of Alice & Peter Tan). In 1996, he joined a community development team, working with the poor in remote villages, caring for orphans, disabled children and those affected by leprosy. In his 15 years in Yunnan, he created innovative ways to teach health and hygiene to the different minority ethnic groups and villages, planned for "surgery camps" for babies with cleft palates and other people with disabilities, and initiated tree (eg walnut) planting efforts that led to thousands of trees being planted to help raise farm income and reduce soil erosion. He has written several books where he shared his experiences of work and life in rural Yunnan.



## Rev Peter Koh

Rev Peter Koh is a pastor at Faith Methodist Church (Small Groups).



## Ms Pearly Sim:

*Do it the Science Way*

Pearly is Faith's pastoral team member who oversees the Children's Ministry. She also plans and develops children's outreach programmes for the community. As a qualified and trained teacher, she loves bringing out the best in every child, but the thing that gives her the greatest joy now is to shape the hearts and minds of children in Christ Jesus!



### Ms Esther Ong:

#### *Telling Christ's Story through Me: Sharing My Personal Testimony*

Esther served as a member of Faith's Pastoral Team for over 20 years and was an overseas Mission worker in two Asian countries for about three years. She is now one of Faith's local mission workers with Interserve Singapore. Together with a team, she conducts trainings for churches and individuals who are interested and engaged in reaching out to a specific people group in Singapore. She can speak Indonesian fluently, which she claims is better than her Mandarin.



### Ms Ruth Lew:

#### *Putting The Power Back in Empowerment*

Ruth is trained and worked as a social worker for a couple of years in a public hospital in Singapore. She felt led by God to do Mercy Discipleship Training School (DTS) in Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Singapore in 2013 where she felt God calling her to serve Him full-time. Since then, she serves in the mercy ministries in YWAM Singapore, reaching out to individuals with the hope of seeing communities transformed and developed. She also went to YWAM Lakeside, Montana to do a Community Development School (CDS) in 2015. Since 2014, she had the privilege to staff various schools (DTS & CDS) in Singapore and beyond. She is also part of community development training school and seminars in the region. She has a heart to journey with people, helping them to reach their God-given potential and to discover their calling and purpose in life.



### Dr Wilson Lau:

#### *The Gospel Made Simple & Easy*

Wilson is an engineer by training, and has a Master of Arts degree in Christian Ministry, Master of Divinity and Doctor of Ministry. He now serves as Field Executive with Cru Singapore, and is particularly involved in training new Cru staff and discipling students in their campus ministry. Together with his wife Pauline Lau, they are Faith's local missionaries and have been serving in Cru for some 40 years. In Faith, he is a Team Leader in our Small Group Ministry.



### Rev Cheng Kim Leong

#### 郑金隆牧师简介

郑牧师毕业于新加坡理工学院土木工程系，曾在建屋发展局任职四年，拥有新加坡上帝学院上帝学学士学位和百欧拉基督教大学 (Biola University) 跨文化宣教人类学 (MA in Inter Cultural Studies) 硕士学位。郑牧师有逾八年宣教体验，也在宣教机构参与推广及教育宣教四年。1999年，郑牧师举家前往柬埔寨一年宣教。后来，郑牧师夫妇加入新加坡威克理夫圣经翻译会，主要的工作是在华文教会中推广及教育有关差传及圣经未得之民的急需，并于2013年出任总干事一职。其后，在上帝的带领下，他们加入新加坡青年使命团，期盼被上帝使用成为与华语教会之间的桥梁，关注万国万民并将使命传承下一代。郑牧师与妻子陈惠玉以及四成年之子目前参加圣公会诸圣堂华文崇拜。



### Mrs Janice Poh

#### 李昭娥姐妹

Janice 任职新加坡管理学院副讲师一职。过去20年来，她活跃于亲友布道事工，后成为现在的华语事工。在华语主日崇拜中，她负责带领敬拜，也是祷告事工的祷告勇士。Janice和她的团队带领了许多教会里弟兄姐妹的父母亲信主。📍

# NO FEAR IN LOVE

## MY STORY OF CALEB

Contributed by Hannah Seow

*"There is no fear in love.*

*But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment.*

*The one who fears is not made perfect in love.*

*We love because he first loved us."*

*1 John 4:18-19 (NIV)*

Fear. It is an awful feeling. It lies hidden deep within, and rears its ugly head in the most unexpected of circumstances. Fear has gripped my heart and mind, it has paralysed me and brought immense anguish to my spirit.

Yet in those darkest moments of anxiety, the Lord broke me time and time again, to reveal how much power His love has over fear. May I share with you my story of how God used my little baby boy, Caleb, to show me such truths?

### I'm Expecting!

I was overjoyed when I found out that I was expecting a third child! Yipeng (my husband) and I prepared our two daughters, Cara and Cate, for the addition of another sibling to the family.

Yipeng and I found out that we were going to have a son at my detailed foetal scan at 20 weeks. We named him Caleb, our strong and courageous fighter boy. However, my gynaecologist found some abnormalities and we were referred to another specialist for a second opinion.

I walked into the ultrasound room that day for our second foetal anomaly scan, not knowing that it would be the start of an immense heart-breaking journey.

"I'm so sorry Mummy, I am looking at something not normal with the brain. There are major issues with the heart. I am seeing a total of three major cardiac abnormalities. His abdomen doesn't look normal. We are also looking at an abnormal cord. There is a cleft lip. It is quite severe. And there is also a cleft palate."

I couldn't believe what I was hearing. What is happening, God? When we left the doctor's room, I cried uncontrollably. Yipeng and I decided to go for an amniocentesis test. The results came back over a week later. Caleb was diagnosed with a chromosomal abnormality called Trisomy 18, Edward's Syndrome, a condition that is incompatible with life. Very



few of such babies survive and are born alive. Very few survive past a month, and only a handful survive beyond a year. These babies have very poor development and growth. We were told that should Caleb survive; he would not be able to develop and progress beyond that of a one-year-old.

My world crashed. What was I to do? How do I carry on?

Fear began to take root in my heart.

## Facing Fear

As an expectant mother, I fear having a special needs child. Why? Because I fear abnormality, I fear rejection, I fear hardship, and I fear pain. For many days on end, I found myself breaking down in tears. Why did God give me an abnormal child? Why did God expose such a deep fear within me?

This was the start of God breaking down the walls in my heart and showing me how His love can drive out such fears. The Lord spoke very clearly one evening, whilst I was crying and asking God why He allowed such a thing to happen.

"I make no mistake, Hannah. Not with you, and not with Caleb."

I sobbed. God spoke deep into my spirit, and assured me that He is in full control, even over my painful circumstances. I felt His peace and comfort as

I determined in my heart to keep Caleb, and to have him for as long as the Lord gives.

For many months whilst Caleb was in utero, I feared loving him. Subconsciously, I stopped talking to Caleb. I spoke about him as if he was apart from me, not realising that he was growing, kicking and moving each and every moment inside of me. Yes, I love him, but my heart held something back. I was so afraid that the more I tried to love; the more grief I would experience should I lose him.

Weeks before I delivered Caleb, God reminded me about HIS love. Will God love me any less because He fears losing me? Will any mother love her own child any less because he will leave her someday? I broke down again as I told Caleb how sorry I was for not loving him with my whole heart. I started talking to Caleb every day. I told him how much God loves him, how much I love him and how much his family loves him.

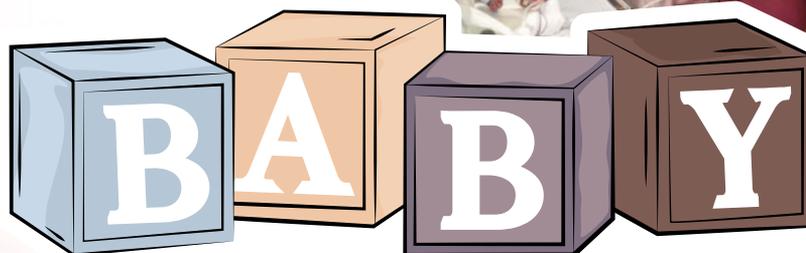
## Welcoming Caleb

Caleb arrived into this world on 19 February 2020 with only a little whimper. All was quiet as the doctors quickly whisked him away to the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit (NICU). He was born at 38 weeks and 2 days old, weighing only 1.99 kg.

God allowed Caleb to be born with all the abnormalities that were detected in utero. I had never felt so much pain in my heart and in my entire being when I came face to face with Caleb, when I saw how hard he was trying to breathe, with tubes connected to his face and body. At the same time, I felt so much love for this little baby. I just wanted to carry him up and hug him. I told him every day how beautiful he was and how much Mummy loved him.

"God, why?! You didn't heal. You chose not to. I'm happy that Caleb is alive, but oh that pain in my heart. How am I to live from now onwards?"

When Caleb was one week old, I received a piece of news from Caleb's team of cardiologists that shook my world even further. We knew that Caleb had severe heart abnormalities, namely VSD and PDA. We were looking forward to the possibility of surgery when Caleb was bigger. But that day, the





Cara with Caleb



Cate with Caleb

him at the hospital. I did not know what to do. I was so scared. I fear the death of my child. I fear the inconsolable grief that comes with losing a precious loved one, especially a baby who ought to have had many years ahead of him.

God broke my heart one night and revealed to me that as much as I wanted Caleb home with me for his remaining days, I was actually fearful of witnessing his death in my own home. That was why I hesitated to bring him back. I knew that God was teaching me not to let my fear of death, of loss, of pain, stop me from loving Caleb with my whole heart.

There is no place for fear in love. I can only love Caleb because of how God loves me.

And so, we made preparations to take Caleb home, to let Caleb experience what it is like to live in our household, to know how precious and loved he is. The nurses at the NICU trained me how to be Caleb's primary caregiver. By His divine grace and strength, I learnt how to tube feed him my breast milk and his medication, how to wear his mask, how to change the tapes on his face, how to remove his secretions from his mouth, how to handle and operate Caleb's equipment.

And within a week thereafter, Caleb was home with us at two weeks old.

### Caring for Caleb

I had the privilege of looking after Caleb, and having him

with us at home for a good whole five weeks. To be honest, each night I went to bed afraid, wondering if anything would happen to Caleb whilst I was asleep. Would I wake up to see Caleb breathing? Would I see Caleb suffer in pain? How much more could this broken heart take?

In the days leading up to Caleb's death, Caleb started having multiple seizure attacks, and became increasingly breathless on occasions. He would cry and grimace in pain for hours on end on several evenings. I cried as he cried. I was at a total loss of what to do.

On one of such nights, I sat down feeling utterly helpless and hopeless. A dear sister in Christ, SW, rang me and spoke to me on the telephone. That was a divine call from the Lord.

"Hannah, Caleb is just like any other baby. What do you do when a baby keeps crying? You pick the baby up and troubleshoot all of the possibilities that is causing discomfort or pain. Don't let fear hinder you because of all those tubes on Caleb."

Something clicked within my spirit and I teared up because I knew that I had again allowed fear to hinder me from lavishing my full love and care upon Caleb. I went back into his room, picked him up and carried him just like how I used to do so with my baby girls.

And after some soothing, Caleb fell asleep in my arms. God's truth hit home. Fear

cardiologists discovered something new in their scans, which was a complete game changer. Caleb had an extremely rare cardiac condition called coronary artery fistula. He not only had one fistula, but multiple fistulas! And they were complexly woven around.

And the cold hard news? No surgery can ever fix it. Yipeng and I were going to lose Caleb. The doctors could not tell us how long Caleb could survive. Caleb was going through heart failure – it could be days; it could be weeks. No one knew.

### Bringing Caleb Home

The doctors asked if we would like to bring Caleb home for his remaining days, or to leave

shall not have any hold on me. His perfect love drives out fear.

## Saying Goodbye

It was about ten minutes past midnight on 8 April 2020. It was the day that Caleb turned 50 days (7 weeks) old. I went into Caleb's room, with syringes of milk and medication, a clean diaper, wet cotton wool and buds, all ready to clean and feed Caleb before turning in for the night.

Caleb had an unprecedented record of three seizures that day, and I was so relieved to see him sleeping so peacefully when I looked at his cute little face.

"Hello Caleb, Mummy is here." I spoke gently as I stroked the side of his face and wiped off some saliva secretions from his lips.

Caleb usually moves or stirs a little as he doesn't like to have his lips cleaned. But this time, he did not move at all. I looked at him again. I looked at his chest, his neck, his mouth. He looked like he was not breathing. I called Yipeng into the room and we both called out to Caleb.

"Caleb, Caleb, Caleb! Daddy and Mummy are here." There was no response. Caleb had left for Heaven first.

I sobbed as I lifted Caleb up and held his lifeless, yet still warm body against my quivering body. I will always remember that searing pain and ache of carrying my lifeless

son, my heart feeling numbed at the trauma of death that descended upon me.

I sat next to Caleb's body even after his doctor came by to certify his death and removed his mask and tubes on his body. I looked at Caleb, my son. I never knew that I could look upon what I thought was ugly, and see that he is so beautiful. I never knew that I would find Caleb so adorable and cute despite his flaws.

God broke my perception of normalcy and showed me how to see Caleb from His eyes. God may have allowed imperfection in the form of Trisomy 18 in Caleb's physical body, but Caleb is fearfully and wonderfully made.

Caleb's death is only the beginning of his restored life in Christ. Do I fear death? No, because I know Christ's power over death and darkness. And I know where Caleb is – safe in the arms of our God.

## Perfect Love Casts Out Fear

Seven weeks of life. Seven weeks of heartache, pain, joy, challenges, beauty and love all mashed together. Seven weeks (and more) of teaching his Mummy how to live life overcoming fear with God's love.

Caleb left us amidst a global pandemic. But he left in the most glorious of manner. Caleb was a calm, meek and gentle boy. Despite his flaws, and despite his sufferings, he bore it all so well. Never

did I hear him cry out loud to complain. He was easily pacified, strong and brave.

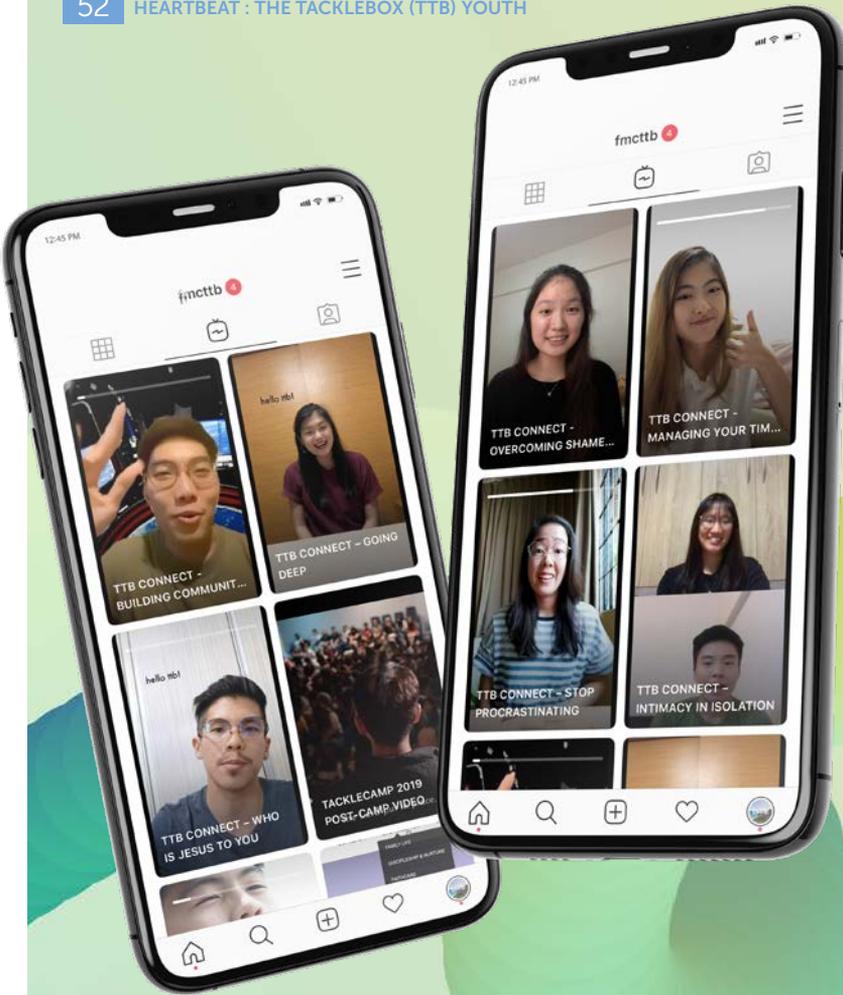
I will always remember that look of immense peace and joy on his little face when he passed away in his sleep. No signs of struggle, no gasping for breath—Caleb left in the most peaceful and victorious way to go Home with our Maker. And for this, I am eternally comforted.

Till we meet again, Caleb, you will always be in our hearts.

Are you facing fear today? I pray that amidst this global pandemic, you will know His love that casts out all fear. God walked with Caleb, and God is walking with my family. He will also walk with you. 🙏

*Hannah is a member of Nemo Small Group with her husband, Yipeng, and 2 daughters, Cara (5) and Cate (3). Hannah also serves as a worship leader at the 11am service.*





# THE ESSENTIAL WORKER: GOD

By Karen Soon

As a youth ministry, we are often pressured to conform to the norms of youth culture—think hype, passion, vibrant. While there is value in staying relevant to make The Tacklebox (TTB) youth ministry a conducive environment for young people to express themselves and belong, a more important question is not asked enough. Beneath the hype, passion, and vibrancy on the outside, is

there life on the inside?

Years ago, the prophecy over TTB for worshippers to arise resonated strongly in the hearts of the youths and leaders alike. We worked and prayed hard towards a revival of hearts in our congregation, with “Go Deep, Go Out” being a key vision that anchored our ministry over the past few years. We were thankful for the growth in church

campus and at worship events. However, it came to a point where we were looking for something deeper.

The COVID-19 outbreak and the circuit breaker saw a cessation of our well-structured services, worship events, and physical gatherings which we relied on to keep the fire going in our hearts. With no hope to draw us into worship, no worship events to stir up emotions to say yes to Him, and a wealth of time on our hands, the question was: what would we be found doing? It was a highly discomfoting time, but we knew that this was exactly what we needed—deep, heart work.

As the ministry adapted to meeting and engaging online, the implications and effects of these changes began to stir healthy conversations among youths and leaders about how this situation could reshape our faith and also redefine our culture. Our understanding of ministry, and what it meant to be a body of Christ, shifted in three main areas:

## Working to Resting

TTB leaders have always worked hard—attending endless church meetings, while balancing school and family life. The fast pace of moving from one thing to the next was a lifestyle that many of us carried into our serving in church. While high levels of

dedication and excellence is good, the frequency of events and meetings made it difficult for leaders to find alone time with God. It is common for TTB leaders to find themselves burnt out towards the end of their leadership term.

During the circuit breaker, however, we were forced to slow down. Without services to run, and with schools going online, many have had the much-needed time for themselves and God. Many leaders commented that the experience of serving from a place of rest and enjoyment in God was vastly different from what they were used to, prior to the circuit breaker.

Our youths shared similar sentiments, with many of them expressing that being rested allowed them to look forward more to cell group and ministry gatherings, as they had more capacity to be mentally present and involved. In fact, Jesus himself practiced the discipline of rest, as He regularly withdrew from the crowds into solitude, where he prayed and communed with God (Luke 5:16). It was in this season of slowing down that we finally understood the value of rest, and learnt that ministry

is equal measures of reaching out and resting in God by first ministering to His heart.

There will always be needs in our community—friends to reach out to, and cell group members to check in with, but resting re-aligns our hearts to remember that God alone



saves, and that He is the reason we do what we do. It is also an act of surrender, giving space for God's grace and power to work in our absence.

## Socializing to Discipling

Second, our options for social interaction were drastically limited, and meeting together became a privilege. Cell groups met online more frequently than they would in person, and many groups had mid-week check-ins where they did devotions together and held each other accountable for their walks with God.

For many, the circuit breaker was a challenging time where

deep-seated family, emotional, or mental health issues surfaced, and it was then that we learnt to stand with and lean on each other a bit more. More than just socializing, cell groups became a place for discipleship and accountability.

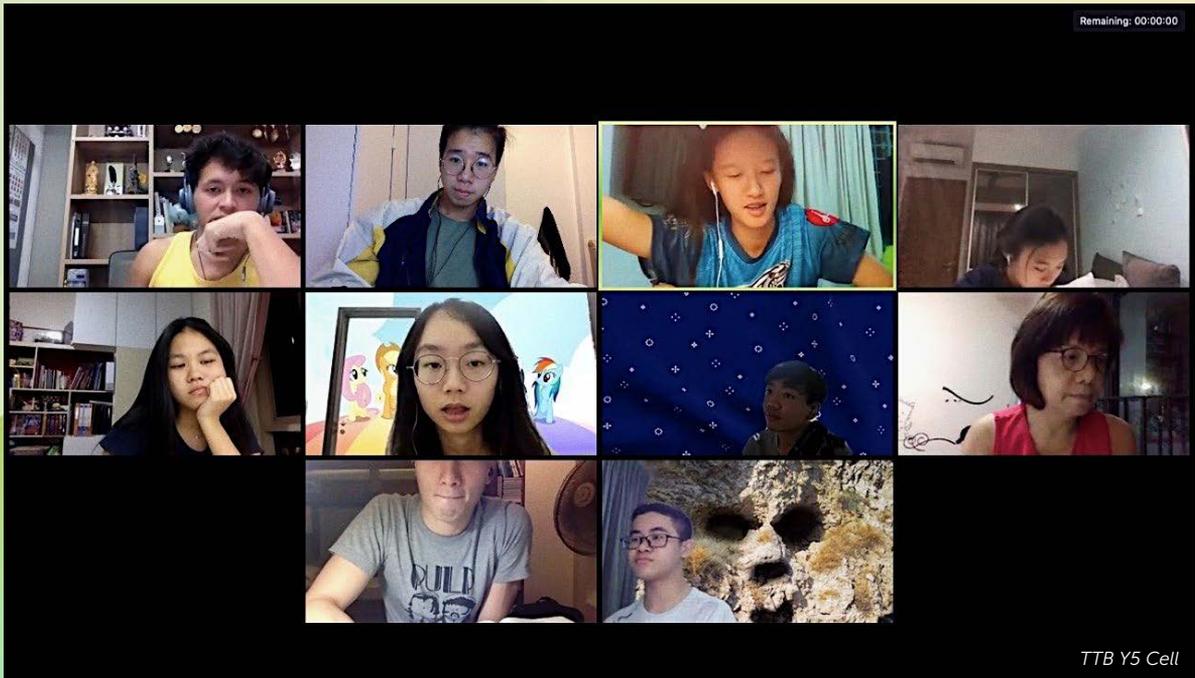
Walking closely with each other through the ups and downs of everyday life highlighted the importance of kingdom friendships and authentic community. Though one may be overpowered, two can defend themselves, and a cord of three strands is not easily broken (Ecclesiastes 4:12).

Hopefully, the increased role of the cell group community in youths' lives would see people making time in their schedules to meet, and be more intentional in journeying deep with each other from here on.

## Striving to Praying

Lastly, being unable to hold services and worship events also placed limits on what we could do to keep the fire going in our youths. We recognized the boundary lines that God was drawing for us in this season, and our eyes turned away from our self-sufficiency to God Himself.

The leaders have been meeting every Sunday



afternoon for the sole purpose of praying for the church and for each other. It brought us back to a place of utter reliance on God, which was refreshing. Seeing Him move and breakthrough in our youths' lives and ministries without the countless ministry activities and events made us realise how we strived in our efforts to keep youths coming to church and loving God.

It became clear that it was never our events nor efforts that drew them to God; it was God himself who pursued their hearts faithfully. To that end, He will continue to be all that we need, and live to please. *Unless the Lord builds the house, the labourers labour in vain* (Psalm 127:1).

### To Conclude ...

*"No one sews a patch of unshrunk cloth on an old garment. Otherwise, the new piece will pull away from the old, making the tear worse. And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins."*

**Mark 2:21-22 (NIV)**

The COVID-19 season showed us many things: The fault lines in our ministry, the importance of community and even more so, our need for Jesus. We learnt to trim away things that were superfluous, forcing us to focus on the necessary and most important work - our

alignment to God in our hearts and our ways.

Yes, we are still praying for revival. But just like how no one pours new wine into old wineskins, we will not be ready for the "more" that God has in store for us, until we have grounded walks that would steward our hearts against pride and complacency in seasons of success.

TTB, may we be ones who are teachable and willing to be moulded by God in the wilderness, as He enlarges our capacity and makes us ready for His use. 🙏

**Karen Soon is the upcoming chairperson of The Tacklebox youth ministry in Faith Methodist Church** and currently leads the Year 5s in TTB. In her free time, she enjoys drinking coffee, watching Netflix, and holding meaningful conversations with family and friends.

# ENGAGING THE YOUTHS CREATIVELY

Read how Community.Youth.Family (or CYF) reached out to their youths in meaningful and fun ways.

By Anna Tan

At Community.Youth.Family (CYF), our ministry of reaching out to pre-believing community youth came to a standstill when COVID-19 struck. Though we felt that we should continue to engage the youth, especially those who may be struggling during this period due to tensions and uncertainties at home and school, we had no idea how. We could not have gatherings and we had no direct contact with the youths.

Thankfully, the Lord seeded some ideas in our heads and we started to engage the youths again in a Postcard Project. The intent of the Postcard Project was to show love and care to our youth since we were not able to meet physically. We had also planned to encourage our youth to show love and care to those around them.

## The Postcard Project

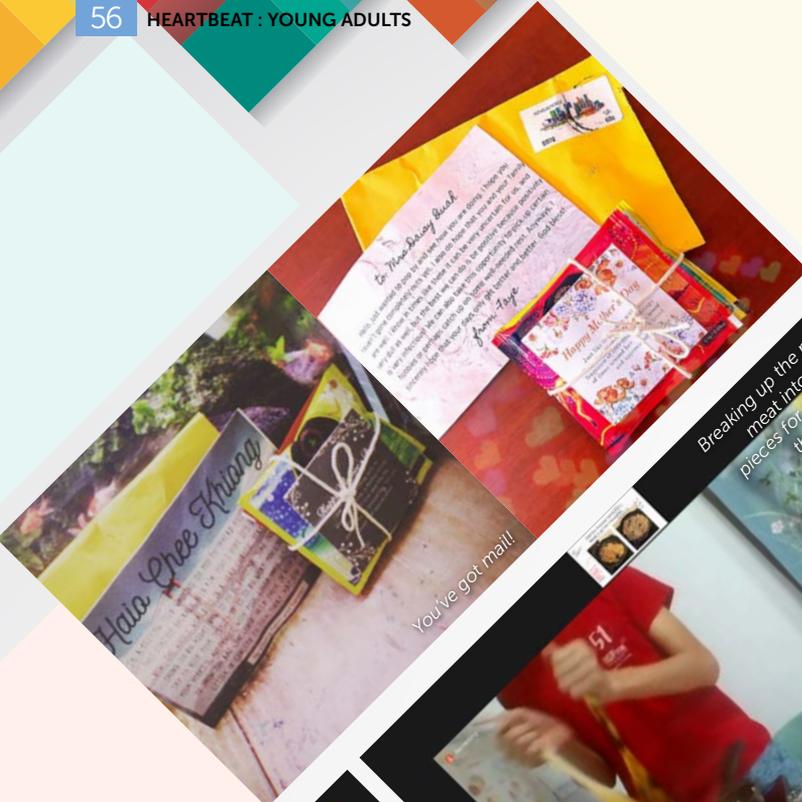
In a massive team effort, our volunteers and older C.Y.F youth took on the challenge of writing and designing personalized postcards for every C.Y.F member. In total, 127 messages and postcards were written and designed. Upon receiving the postcards, many then passed on the gesture by sending messages of care to other parties. Though just a postcard, we believe the intent was well-received.

Encouraged by the response, we moved on to conduct a Ravioli cooking session—online! Over Zoom, the youths made pasta dough, meat filling and tomato sauce from scratch. It was tough work but we were rewarded

A total of 127 unique and personalized postcards were designed to spread love and care to the youths

All ready to be sent to the post office!

Postcards were individually packed with teabags for mothers in each household



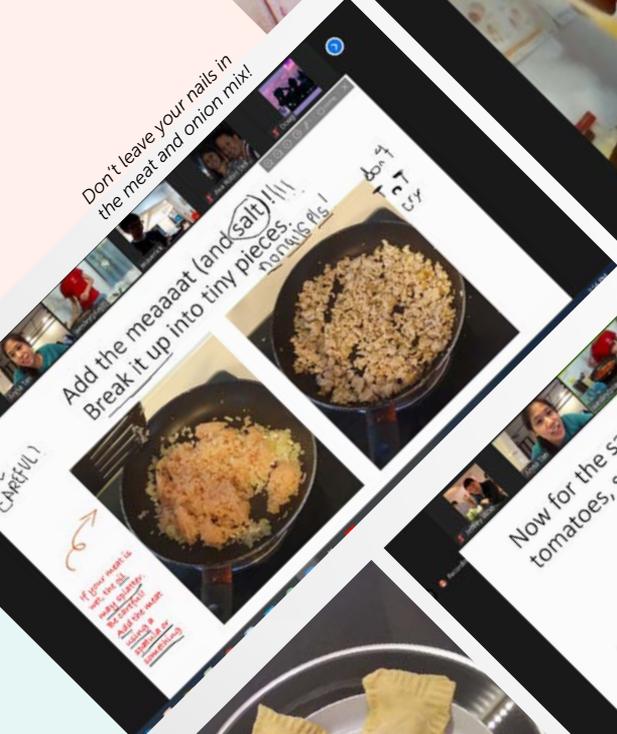
You've got mail!

Handmade ravioli packets of all shapes and sizes

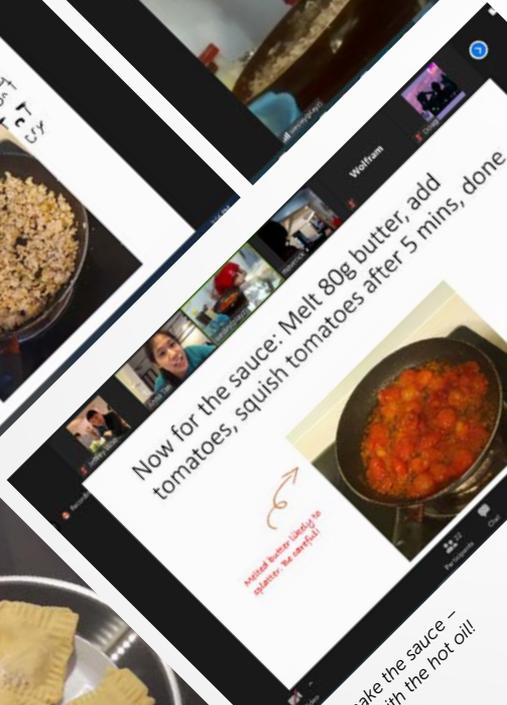
Breaking up the minced meat into tiny little pieces for stuffing into the ravioli packs



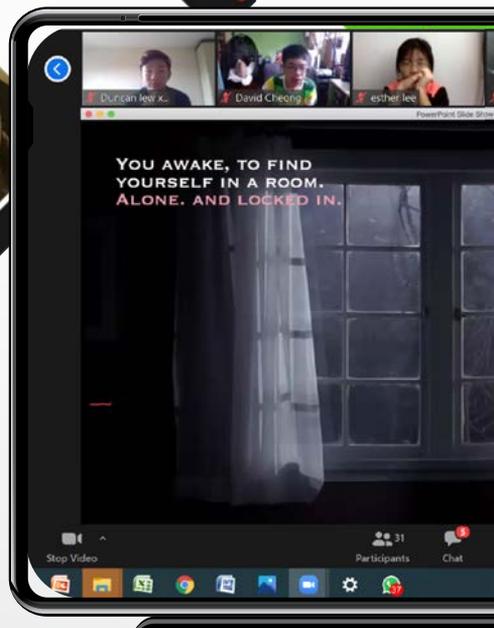
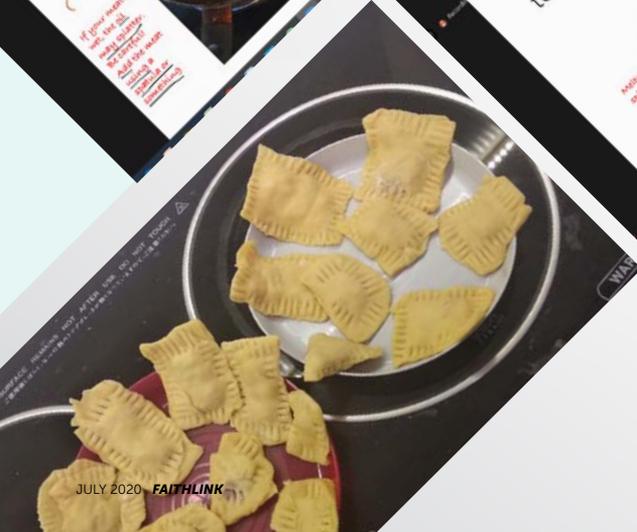
Don't leave your nails in the meat and onion mix!



Now for the sauce: Melt 80g butter, add tomatoes, squish tomatoes after 5 mins, done



Time to make the sauce - be careful with the hot oil!



Participants all ready to escape!



with tasty pasta and a good laugh watching one another!

We were also nicely surprised by the older C.Y.F youth who joined in to encourage our volunteers and help us engage the younger ones. We ended the session with encouragement from the Bible to cast our anxieties on the Lord during these trying times (1 Peter 5:7), and to not give up meeting together though it may be difficult to do so (Hebrews 10:25).

## Escape Room—Online!

In recent months, we also tried an online version of the Escape Room game. The purpose of this activity was to emphasise communication, patience and supporting one another.

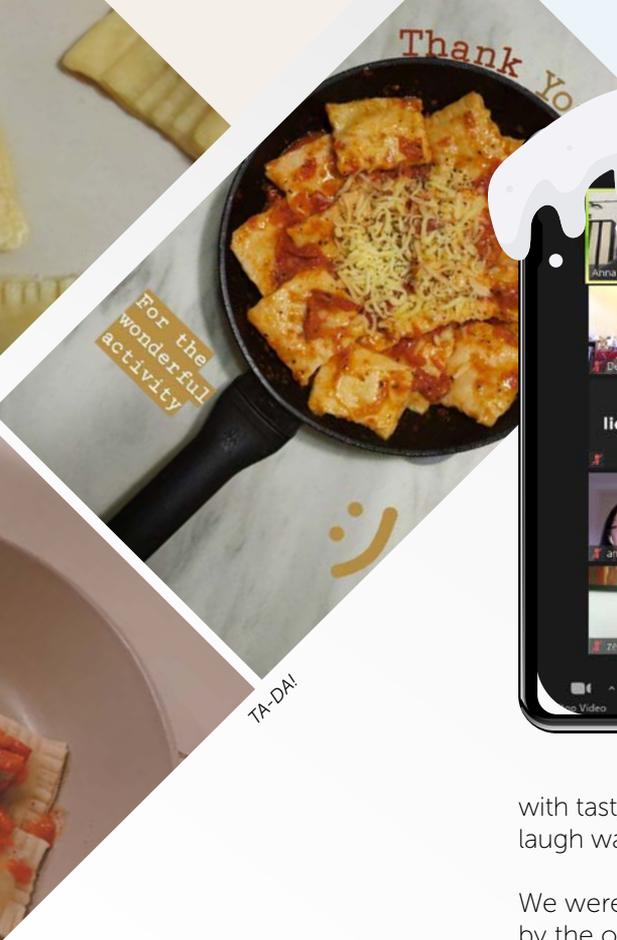
The youth worked together in small teams to solve puzzles in order to escape a freezing lodge and to avoid becoming a frozen snowman. We asked some of them to share their

experiences with us:

- *Constantly check up on them, ask if they are okay.*
- *Lend a listening ear to them and be there for them.*
- *Try to be in their shoes and not be insensitive.*
- *If they need help with homework, help to teach them.*
- *Or if they are feeling down, comfort them and listen to them.*
- *If someone bullies them, stand up for them.*

The youths enjoyed themselves throughout the game and we were heartened to see how they showed support and care for their friends (Ecclesiastes 4:12, 1 Corinthians 12:12-26).

*Anna worships at 11am service with her husband Shaun. She serves with Missions and CYF ministry.*



Getting into the mood and the story...

# EQUIPPING AND ENCOURAGING

Our Young Adult Ministry conducted two online events in May 2020. Read on to find out what was covered!

By Jeffrey Woo

## Event Topic **STRESS MANAGEMENT**

SATURDAY May 2 (10-11am)

**Situation** Covid-19 has caused sudden and unprecedented disruptions to our society and the world.

It has disrupted life and jobs and has increased the levels of mental and emotional stresses in many of us.

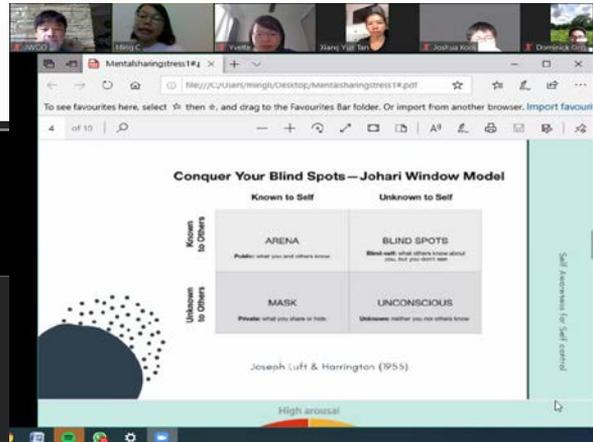
**What We Did** During the Circuit Breaker, the YA Ministry partnered with our church counsellor, Chong Ming Li, to conduct an online Zoom session about managing stress.

Prior to the session, Ming Li contacted the participants to learn more about the issues they were facing so as to better facilitate a discussion that would be meaningful for them.

Our Pastor-in-charge, Rev Raymond Fong, also joined in to support the participants as they openly shared their struggles. For our community of young adults, it was definitely a meaningful space to encourage one another.

**Outcome** We thank God that through the session, participants felt supported and got to know more about one another.

Fellow YA members also took the opportunity to develop strategies that could help others cope better with the current challenges.



**Event Topic** ENTERING THE MARKETPLACE

SATURDAY May 30 (4-6pm)

**Situation** Every year, a new batch of YAs enter the marketplace once they complete their studies.

Some of them have raised questions about job choices, expectations and the challenges of working life.

**What We Did** As such, we engaged Rev Raymond Fong, our Pastor-in-charge, to share biblical principles for Christians as they enter the marketplace and the attitudes and perspectives to adopt.

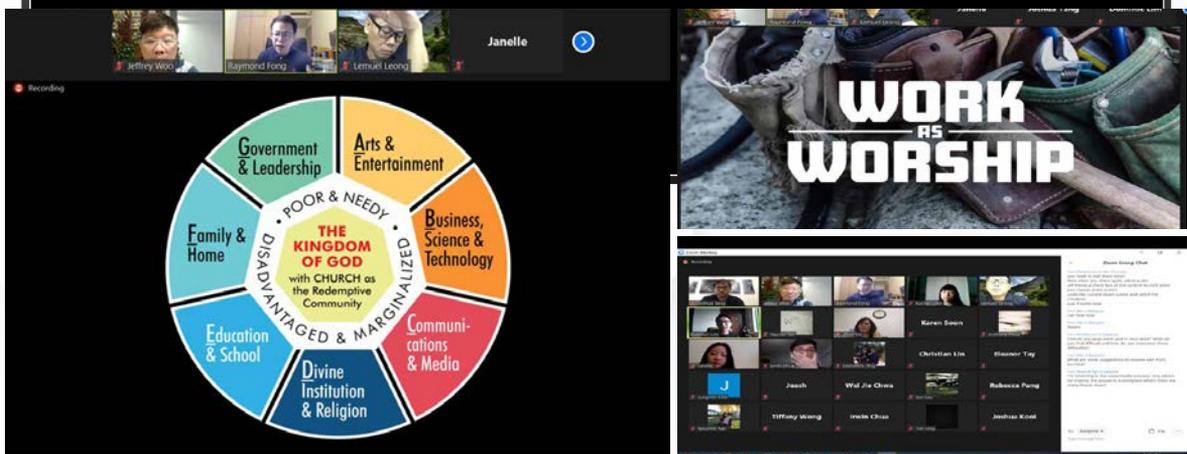
We formed a panel consisting of people from different backgrounds, gender, age groups, and fields of work, to share their personal journey in the marketplace.

There was also a Q&A session for participants to raise issues and gain insight from the experience of the panellists. This segment provided a time for mutual encouragement to take place, which boosted the faith of all who were present.

**Outcome** Participants found the session fruitful as they learnt the biblical perspectives of working in the marketplace.

They were also encouraged by the personal testimonies being shared.

**What's Next** We hope to do more #Marketplace sessions to cater to the different stages of Young Adults in the marketplace. Aside from providing a Christian perspective on issues faced by YAs, we aim to impart coaching skills and relevant knowledge required for the marketplace.



We are looking for Faith members in the marketplace who are willing to share, mentor or coach the Young Adults in church. You will need to support them in their walk to be disciples for Christ in the marketplace. If you feel led to mentor our Young Adults or want to find out more, please email [jeffreywoo@faithmc.sg](mailto:jeffreywoo@faithmc.sg).

Mrs Irene Chong, front row, second from left, with her friends from the Indonesian Fellowship.

# SERVING IN THE INDONESIAN MINISTRY

By Mrs Irene Chong

Some 12 years ago, I was approached by Esther Ong to join the Indonesian ministry. I had no idea why she approached me, but on reflection it was probably God placing a burden on my heart. I turned her down then as my job at that time entailed long hours and travelling.

After retirement, while looking for an area to contribute, I answered a call for volunteers at FaithActs to help with reading to young kids, and I am still happily serving there after four years.

## Responding to the Call

In 2018, I once again felt the burden for the Indonesian Ministry that had been implanted in me 12 years ago. So during Faith's Ministry Fair in 2018, I decided to find out more about the work of the Indonesian ministry.

I approached the booth and was persuaded to give it a try. I thought to myself that having studied the Malay Language at "O" Levels, this was a chance for me to brush up

and reach out to the ladies. The result was totally unexpected.

They spoke so fast and used so many abbreviations during the conversation that it caught me unawares. Apart from a few sentences here and there, or when the ladies slowed down for me, I could otherwise not follow them, especially when they spoke amongst themselves.

## Developing Meaningful Relationships

The initial language challenges did not stop me from developing more friendships within the group or being involved in the weekly service.

To run the weekly meeting, the ladies provide the music (we have a few guitarists amongst them), manage the slides, lead prayers and basically run the whole service, except the preaching segment.

I am always amazed by their willingness to share and to step up to lead, be it in service,





singing or prayer. To date, one of my most meaningful times in this fellowship was singing The Doxology in Indonesian.

On many occasions, while serving as a mentor, I have often been mentored by them. I have been struck by their faith, devotion, resourcefulness and stoicism in the face of adversity at home or at work. It is touching to see their capacity to love and care for one another.

### A Support Network

The ladies are split into four groups with their own leaders, and provide great support to each other, especially those who may be homesick, lonely, face problems with their employers, or have family issues at home.

One lady shared with me that no matter what time of the day it is, she knows there will be someone in her group who will respond to her message for a listening ear. What a blessing!

In August 2019, some mentors made a trip to Indonesia (Kupang) to meet the families of some of these ladies. This ministry is not unlike a mission trip, but just on home ground for these girls.

The trip generated much excitement. Besides hauling bags of gifts from the ladies for their families, the mentors, in return, were so blessed by the love showered upon them by these families.

### Connecting Online

With the lockdown and helpers not allowed out on their off days, it has become quite draining for these ladies who have no break and who miss the camaraderie among their friends.

Thankfully, technology provided a way out and we have been able to meet each other online through Zoom sessions on Sunday evenings. Amazingly, these sessions also included some who had returned to Indonesia earlier on, and we were so glad to connect with them once again! 🙏

*Irene has attended Faith since 1987 and worships at the 11am service. She is the Small Group leader of Karis.*



Every Sunday from 3pm to 5.30pm, a group of 15-20 Indonesian domestic helpers meet in church for a time of singing, praying, the sharing of God's Word, and fellowship. We are in need of more mentors and hope that if God has placed a burden on you through this sharing, please contact Esther Ong (estherong11@gmail.com). Bilingual translations are always provided, so please don't let language stop you.

# The Blessing

By Hor Chor Kiat



The Blessing video project started during the Circuit Breaker (CB) period as my friends and I from the Worship and Music Ministry were thinking of how we could contribute as a church in the midst of the lockdown. I came across the song, The Blessing (by Elevation Worship) and thought, "Why not we get people to sing this as a blessing to those around us?" We shared this idea with our friends in the ministry who were worship leaders, singers, musicians, choristers and dancers, and invited them to submit their recordings.

We were encouraged to see 54 people rising up to contribute – both young and old, and even as families too! Lack of equipment and the recording know-how were definitely challenges during this project, but I am encouraged that people were still willing to give their best and to be a blessing to others!

To watch the video cover on YouTube, go to  
[faihtmcsq/blessing](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=faihtmcsq/blessing)

*Chor Kiat* conducts Dawn Voices and serves in both the 9am, Young Adult, and Mandarin Ministry bands as a keyboardist.

# SPOTTED AT FAITH

We bring you snapshots of past events held at Faith Methodist Church.



## BEHIND THE SCENES OF OUR WEEKLY SUNDAY SERVICES





NIGHT OF  
WORSHIP  
24 JUNE 2020

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Held online via Youtube Live



# COVID-19 RESOURCE PORTAL

[faithmc.sg/portal](https://faithmc.sg/portal)

Check out our spiritual resources online to equip yourself and learn how to reach out to others during this challenging season.

## TOPICS

- Family Life
- Small Groups
- Prayer
- Spiritual Disciplines
- Emotional & Mental Well-Being
- One Mission Opportunities





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