## new grace Bulletin

04-06

A Family in Grace

YAYP Retreat

2016 - Tapestry

Alpha Course @ GII Praise Report

### COMMUNITY OUTREACH @ BLK 412

September has been a busy month for GII. GII staff, together with both Chinese and English congregation conducted a community outreach at the newly built Block 412 through a series of events.

Block 412 is a rental block consisting of one and two bedroom units just opposite GII. These units are rented mainly to financially needy families with a current occupancy rate of about 75%. We quickly seized this as God's divine opportunity to express our missional mandate. A community engagement plan was rolled out in September to connect with the newly moved-in residents.

Firstly, the residents were welcomed to the community with a welcome pack on 11 September. To ensure that the residents are at home to receive the welcome pack, GII staff started the groundwork one week earlier in the afternoon of the 4 September. We combed the entire block, knocked on every door and distributed notices to inform the residents to be home to









receive their welcome pack on 11 September. On the actual day of the distribution, more than 50 Gracians, from both Chinese and English congregation, came to pack and distribute the welcome packs. We enthusiastically carried the welcome packs loaded with rations across to the block, knocked on every door and proudly introduced ourselves as members of Grace Assembly. Thanks be to God that we were warmly welcomed by the residents and they were generally very opened towards us. God is indeed the sower!

Secondly, during the welcome pack distribution, the residents were invited to a High Tea cum Health Check event held on 25 September. The health check was provided FOC to the residents by a group of volunteers from NUH. A talk on government schemes was also conducted to give the residents a better understanding of how these schemes can help them in their current situation. Although the residents' response to this event was positive, not many of them turned up on the actual day. We quickly galvanised the Usher and Greeter teams to knock on every door to invite the residents for the event. Our efforts paid off as residents, both young and old, started to stroll into the church.

While the adults had their health checked, the children were engaged in activities organized by the Children's Ministry. After the health check and government scheme talk, the residents were ushered to the high tea session at the fellowship area. Every Gracian took the opportunity to connect with the residents in the midst of good food and lively bantering. The event was a huge success and ended with a smile on everyone's faces.

As a result of these efforts, two families have started attending the English service. A number of Chinese residents have indicated their openness to visit the Mandarin service. A sizeable number of residents have indicated that they would like us to visit them continually and are interested to participate in future activities organized by the church!

We thank God for the positive response from the residents. It was also heartening to see GII reaching out together as a family. Jesus said, "Don't you have a saying, 'It's still four months until harvest'? I tell you, open your eyes and look at the fields! They are ripe for harvest." (John 4:35). Let us roll up our sleeves, walk into the fields and harvest the souls into God's Kingdom!







MBS

WOG-SBS



Grace Bible Studies (GBS) have completed all their Bible Studies for the year. We are so encouraged to see Gracians investing their time and effort digging into the Word of God relentlessly. Below are the three different topic & books our three different Bible Study groups, namely WoG Day Bible Study (Wednesday@GI&GII), WoG Saturday Bible Study (@GI), and Men's Bible Study (Saturday@GI), have completed in the last quarter.

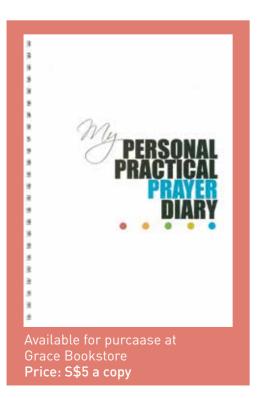
Precept Upon Precept materials use the Inductive Bible Study method. This method of studying the Bible allows students to study the Scripture through Observation, Interpretation and Application. The methodology allows students to (1) study the Word themselves; (2) go to the Bible as the main source of information; (3) apply what they have learned so as to allow the Word of God to bring about transformation.

It is exciting to hear how different ones made attempts to obey the Word of God—sharing the gospel with their neighbours and friends, going on mission trips, showing love to people they are upset with, controlling their temper with the power of the Holy Spirit, partaking the Holy Communion with a renewed understanding of the new covenant, being mindful of the times when they are tempted to turn away from the call of God, and many others.

More courses will be made available next year, stay tune to this column for our GDP (Grace Discipleship Process) classes, GBS (Grace Bible Studies) and GMC (Grace Missional College) modules.

For more information of GDP and our calendar of events, please refer to www.graceaog.org/gdp.  $\label{eq:calendar}$ 

## My Personal Practical Prayer Diaries



My Personal Practical Prayer Diaries are ordered, as a church tool, to enable and encourage Gracians in their missional journey, starting from 2017, towards the realization of the Equipping thrust – strengthening spiritual disciplines, especially in the area of prayer, and also in the spiritual habit of the fellowship of prayer for others (Ephesians 6:18; 1 Timothy 2:2).

You may purchase copies of the Diaries for yourself, a spiritual practice with the church in your missional journey, and others, as a Christmas gift, for a disciplined and systematic prayer, at the Grace Bookstore from December 2016.

### Christmas at Grace Bookstore, Grace @Tanglin

Let's express and share the love of Christ during this season of giving. Come by the bookstore at 2nd level fellowship, where you will find books, cards, calendars, and novelties as Christmas gifts for your loved ones, and friends.

Looking for volunteers to help out with the Grace Bookstore, Grace @Tanglin, and Grace @Bukit Batok. Please email poh.suan@graceaog.org if you are keen to volunteer and to be part of this ministry.



Last Module at Grace Missional College (GMC) for 2016

#### **BIBT235: Conflict Management & Resolution**

Dr Joseph Umidi 17-19 November 2016

This course provides perspectives on the rudiment of leading people through understanding of conflicts. It also focuses on the principles and praxis of the management from theory to practice, developing and formulating resolution methods and managing communications.

College

Let's come together to be discipled and equipped with God's Word, and to become an intentional missional disciple-discipler of Christ.

For enquiries and registrations, please email to gmcollege@graceaog.org

You may refer to http://edu.graceaog.org/ or www.graceaog.org/grace-missional-college for the brochure and details.





# MONTHLY LUNCHTIME FASTINGPRAYER

**Every 1st Wednesday of the month** 

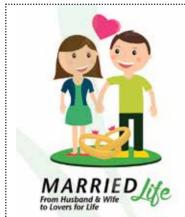
12noon - 1:30pm
GI Level 3 Emmaus Hall

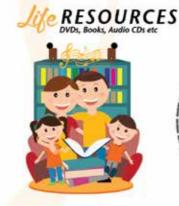
#### **November Prayer Pointers**

For the month of November, pray for the different congregations in the church:

~ 1 Chron. 16:11

- 1. Pray for the children's church. Pray for the children to love Jesus more and more and that they will experience the baptism of the Holy Spirit and be a powerful witness for Christ.
- 2. Pray for the youth congregation. Pray that the youths will flee from temptations and will pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace. Pray that they will be kept in the path of righteousness for His Name's sake.
- 3. Pray for the YAYP congregation. Pray that our young adults will live for God and seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. Pray that God will ignite every young adult's heart with a greater passion for Him.
- 4. Pray for the adult congregation. Pray that the adults will live lives worthy of God's calling. Pray that they will love God passionately and fulfill His purposes single-mindedly.
- 5. Pray for the elderly congregations. Pray that God will preserve the elderly folks and grant them strength. Pray for our elderly folks to always put their hope in God and be thankful to Him in all circumstances.











#### "But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD." Joshua 24:15

If you need to make counselling appointment, please contact:

Pastor Benjamin Wong 9066-2994

All counselling sessions are strictly private and confidential

## A Family in Grace

Great opportunities often disguise themselves in small tasks. The little things in life determine the big things. Don't look for great tasks to do for God. Just do the not-so-great stuff, and God will assign you whatever He wants you to do. ~ Rick Warren

You may have seen him around especially when there are activities organised by the Reach Community Services Society (RCSS), a social concerns arm of Grace Assembly. Always having a cheerful demeanour. From a cell leader to a Sunday School teacher, to a board member and eventually, the Chief Executive of RCSS. He and his family personify what it means to serve God. To have a servant heart. Small tasks, big tasks, he takes on as long as the Lord calls.

Family Life@Grace has the privilege of catching up with Siew Cheong, to find out why did he not choose to take a more profitable path, given his very successful long working experience with a multi-national energy company.

FLG: Family Life@Grace HSC: Ho Siew Cheong



Siew Cheong with his family (from left to right – Chan Keen, Wai Cheng, Siew Cheong, Joong Yan and Chan Hong)

FLG: Please introduce yourself, especially to our new friends in Grace. HSC: I am Siew Cheong. I became a Christian in 1975 when I was a Secondary 4 student. I have been worshipping at Grace AG since August 1980.

I serve in a full time capacity as the Chief Executive of REACH Community Services Society, the social concerns arm of the Church. I have been on this role now for about 2 years. Prior to this, I had a successful 27 year career with a multi-national energy company.

FLG: ...and your family

HSC: I am married to Wai Cheng, my wife and we have 3 young adult children. The Lord is good to me. My whole family worship at Grace. My Mum and mother-in-law are with the Cantonese Congregation, whereas my children are worshipping and serving with the R-Age and YAYP congregations also at GI. For convenience, my wife and I worship with the YAYP congregation too.

**FLG:** We understand you are a long-time member of Grace. How long have you been in Grace? How did you end up in Grace?

HSC: I encountered the Lord as a teenager while looking for meaning and purpose in life. Shortly after I became an undergraduate, a friend whom I have known since Secondary 1 invited me to his church, Grace Assembly. It was 10 Aug 1980. Pastor Oh Beng Khee was the speaker that morning.

A few things happened shortly after my first visit to Grace. I was introduced to many friends, several of whom were fellow undergraduates. Meeting them day-in, day-out in Campus created opportunities to serve together and with that, our friendships grew. As I was quite versatile with my hands, I was invited to help the Sunday School create teaching aids. I was also invited from time to time to write for Grace Pointer, our church magazine then. I also joined a cell group which met regularly for bible studies and campus evangelism. That was where I grew to know the Lord deeper, and found the joy of serving Him. Rev Peter Tay Yap Tong who spent time regularly to mentor young undergraduates was then the interim Senior Pastor. I decided to stay on in Grace, and the rest is history.

**FLG:** You had a very successful career with a renowned MNC, what prompted you to give up the job to head REACH Community Services Society (RCSS)?

HSC: Over the years since I settled in Grace, I had the privilege to serve in several ministries. For a while, I was leading the cell group in the Campus. Then I was given the opportunity to teach in the Sunday School, and also helped to run the Church's marriage preparation program. Eventually in the late 1990s, and by the grace of God, I was elected to serve as a deacon in the Executive Church Board (ECB).

It was there at the ECB where I participated in the deliberations that eventually led to the Church deciding to register a Volunteer Welfare Organization, associated, but separated from the Church, to enable the Church to better reach out to the un-churched needy in the Community. People who for whatever reasons could not be reached directly via the Church.

In 1998, REACH Community Services Society or RCSS was born. I was seconded by the ECB then to be one of the members of the first Management Committee to serve as a bridge between the Church and the Society.

Although one can never be "100% sure", we can always dwell in the comfort of knowing we have a Heavenly Father who cares, who loves, and who watches over us. That even if we may have gotten it wrong, He can always make the wrong right. Would the Father refuse His child who wants to serve Him?

Over the years I saw how God has blessed RCSS, and how He has given growth as He opened one door after another for the Church to play a bigger part in the community work. I am also familiar with the struggles of RCSS as she navigates the changing social landscape in tandem with the development of Grace to what it is today. I stayed on with the Management Committee of RCSS for 14 years, and eventually stepped down as part of the leadership renewal process in 2013.

In the next 2 years while being away and 'detached' from RCSS, I was able to reflect on the gaps between the Church

and the Society, and how we could, if the Lord is willing, possibly bridge that. I could also see the potential of what the Society can do if we have a Church of greater than 4000 fully backing her endeavours. I could also see the impact of the Church in the Community, and on larger humanity, if we are able to better harness the potential of RCSS in a land like Singapore. Not many Churches in Singapore have such a platform. But this cannot happen by chance.

The scary realisation came. I sense the Lord asked me, "if I have showed you, and you can see it, why don't you do something about it?".

So I shared with my family the burden and we deliberated and prayed about it for a while. I shared with the Senior Pastor who took time to pray with me, and eventually proposed the idea with the Management Committee of RCSS at that time. RCSS was at that time about to embark on an ambitious growth path. It was hoped that the experience I have gained over the years working in an MNC would help in some ways to realize the vision.

FLG: It was a bold move. How did your family react to that?

**HSC:** My family have a habit of talking stuff regularly over the dinner table. So the subject about my calling into fulltime service was not so much of a surprise when we eventually discussed details.

It is our privilege to serve the Lord. My wife and children are themselves serving in various capacities, so it was not a difficult discussion. There are bread and butter issues to discuss, but the Lord has provided over the years, and the family knows it and are also assured. The biggest question remains a personal one. Is the Lord calling, and is this the time?

That question can only be answered by seeking the Lord, and letting the Lord speak to us. Although one can never be "100% sure", we can

always dwell in the comfort of knowing we have a Heavenly Father who cares, who loves, and who watches over us. That even if we may have gotten it wrong, He can always make the wrong right. Would the Father refuse His child who wants to serve Him?

**FLG:** How did you cope with the transition?

HSC: For most of my working life, I am familiar with how to navigate in an industry that is driven by bottom

A supportive wife is a great gift in this faith journey, one who despite many unknowns, holds faith to stay by your side and ride out uncertainties.

lines and commercial profits. However, the social service sector is not totally like that. So, some of the principles of management have to be adapted to suit the character and pulse of the industry. The Lord provided many new friends, and likeminded practitioners to help and encourage me along the way.

While the needs in the social service sector are many, it is unfortunately not as intuitive nor obvious to the average population, not even the congregation at large. It is hard to sell the needs of the marginalized in an otherwise prosperous and preoccupied Singapore. At times, it does feel like preaching a sermon in the midst of an ongoing heavy metal rock concert. You get drowned out, and it is a challenge to hold the audience's attention. It makes one humble to realize that unless the Lord builds the house, and watches over the city, we labour and keeps away in vain.

**FLG:** How was it like working in RCSS as compared to working in a MNC?

HSC: In a MNC, one has the privilege to leverage skills and work processes established by many good people around the world. Also for a large MNC, one can often enjoy the support of many people who are specialists in their own fields. It is not quite the same in a small VWO like RCSS. To keep cost low, and a tight control on headcount, one tends to need to be involved in several areas at the same time. Several of my staff for instance put on multiple hats and play multiple roles.

In a way, getting involved in many areas make the work interesting, but it can also be tiring, and at times, limiting. Not many people are effectively multi-skilled.

In a commercial organization, we seldom depend on volunteers, but in a VWO, we depend a lot on volunteers. Volunteers tend to be purpose driven, and not rewards driven. Managing volunteers can be challenging, but it can also be rewarding. Good volunteers can bring a lot to the party, and can go a long distance with the organization. The challenge is to find them, and motivate them, and to match their capability and availability to the needs on the ground.

FLG: Share with us some of your challenges and victories?

HSC: Running an organization that "depends" on charitable donation is quite different from a commercial organization. One has very little control at what and how people donate, except to trust in the Lord the He will do what He will to ensure that all the needs at RCSS will be met.

As a faith based Charity, one cannot operate without practising faith. Having faith not in what we can do, but in what He has promised, and that ALL our needs will be met. Often times it means doing our due diligence, and simply wait.

Over the past 18 years since RCSS was inaugurated, the Lord has always shown His faithfulness. The Lord has always provided, and our needs were met. Moving forward we can only trust the Lord will do the same and more

We have seen significant growth in RCSS's span over the past 2 years as the Lord open more and more doors for RCSS to minister to the Community. The number of programs we offer, and the necessary headcount increase to support the programs have also grown in tandem. What that means is the drain on our reserves will be a lot faster should we not be able to raise as much money and as fast to keep pace with expenditure.

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So the challenge for myself as the leader is to trust in the Lord that He will provide, and to lead the organization to walk by faith, holding on to the Lord's promise that He will provide all our needs, both corporate and personal. For the staff, there are bills to pay and mouths to feed. The last thing we want it to happen, is to distract the crew from their core work of ministering to the Community with worries about making ends meet.

**FLG:** Heading the RCSS is a tremendous task. How did you manage your time spent with your family?

**HSC:** A supportive wife is a great gift in this faith journey, one who despite many unknowns, holds faith to stay by your side and ride out uncertainties. She is a major stabilizer in the household.

In a sense, there is no clear contrast between work life and faith life, or work life with family life. It is a mixed pot and a constant sequence. We set aside time to play, and have fun together. We agree and set priorities and time to do stuff together. But we talk about work, and school, and friends and people and conflicts all thrown in the pot ... over dinner

So my wife and kids are quite up to speed on the major issues I am working on, and in appropriate ways, they are also involved. For instance, the Flag Day 2016, the entire extended family got involved to help out.

FLG: What would you like to tell Grace members?

**HSC:** Over the past several years, there has been a heightened consciousness of who we are, who and what we believe in, and the role of the Church in the Community.

The traditional view is that we bring people to Church. However, we are progressively moving towards bringing the Church to the people. Traditionally, we want to walk in the favour of the Lord so that we may be blessed. Now, we believe that we are blessed, so we can channel the blessings of God to bless others, so that they may know God. RCSS can be an effective platform for the Church in those regards.

There are only a handful of Churches in Singapore endowed with a registered VWO, bringing with it the Institution of Public Character (IPC) status. Grace Assembly is one such church. If we succeed in harnessing the financial and human resources of this 4000 strong Church and line them prudently behind her social service platform, there is a lot we can do to bring hope to the Community, and glory to the Lord.

#### Editor's note:

Number of casework and counselling cases handled by family service centers rose from 31,074 in 2013 to 32,844 in 2014. That is an increase of 1,770 cases within a year. The needs are indeed plentiful out there. If you would like to contribute to RCSS, please log on to their website http://www.reach.org.sg/ (figures from msf.gov.sg)

For there will never cease to be poor in the land. Therefore I command you, 'You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to the needy and to the poor, in your land.' Deuteronomy 15:11



## The Tyranny of Technology

BY SHIRLEY WOON





#### YAYP RETREAT 2016 - TAPESTRY

#### 10-12 September

An amazing time of learning what it means to be an authentic biblical community and seeing God work in our community. We developed new friendships through the games and skit presentation, and grew stronger bonds with our cells in heart-to-heart sessions. The sermons and workshops by Pastor Alvin and Pastor Cui Xian taught us about God's purpose of placing us in community, and how to apply these lessons in a practical manner.

We are indeed broken together, in the process of being woven whole by God, into a beautiful Tapestry that He has designed before the beginning of time.











#### POST YAYP RETREAT - BY JANENE DHEVARAJULU

Being fairly new in church, the idea of community was daunting to say the least. I felt like I was on the outside looking in, and the thought of joining a cell group or ministry absolutely terrified me. In fact, I was more than comfortable sitting inconspicuously in a corner, dashing out right after service ended. On hindsight, even then, God had placed a desire in my heart, albeit dormant at the time, to be part of something



greater than myself. I was just afraid. But our God is one who is greater than our fears, and I got thrown in at the deep end. His impeccable timing found me meeting the right people at the right time, and before I could make sense of all that was happening, I was part of an enthusiastic cell group that relentlessly persuaded me to

register for retreat. Usually, my instinctual response would be to say 'no', as retreat would comprise of so many more people than a cell group, but I felt a strong prompting from God to leap out of the comfort zones I had boxed myself in, and I ended up registering at the eleventh hour- and I'm so grateful I did.

All the retreat activities, workshops and sermons ran really smoothly, and tied in well with the retreat theme- Broken together, Woven Whole. Personally, I felt that each activity was planned intentionally, and fostered stronger bonds within cell groups. The games, for instance, helped eliminate whatever ounce of awkwardness or shyness that might have been present within groups, and really set the tone for the rest of the retreat. Meal times were my absolute favourite, as stacks of talking cards (graciously prepared by the committee) were placed at each table, consisting of both deep and

light hearted questions. This simple act fuelled many heart-to-heart sessions that took place at almost every table, and was beyond heartening to witness. Also, the sermons and workshops were surprisingly interactive, and brought to life the concept of a biblical community. During the various sessions, many lives were touched as the Spirit moved, healed, and restored. Walls started breaking down, and the culture of vulnerability, supported by prayer started spreading like wildfire.

I remember responding to one of the altar calls, and as soon as I walked to the front and closed my eyes, I was immediately surrounded by my amazing cell group who not just prayed for me, but cried with me as I did. It touched me incredulously, to realise that the community I had found myself in, was one that didn't just rejoice with those who rejoiced, but even wept with those who wept (Romans 12:15). As I scanned the room that was just so saturated with the Holy Spirit, I found everyone so immersed in worshipping God, through prayer for one another and in song. It was honestly one of the best feelings I've felt- safety in a community whose eyes were fixed on the One that heals beyond measure, unconditionally.

It became apparent that the struggles and hardships in our lives weren't meant to be hidden, taunting us, acting as reminders of our lack of worth, but were however preordained to be testaments of His unending grace and favour towards us- testaments brought through a conscious choice to be vulnerable and authentic with the community He's divinely placed us in, serving to support, edify and build (1 Thess 5:11), pointing us back to Him, who has and will always be, the focal point of our lives.

This retreat was indeed a stepping stone for many of us, and for the YAYP community as a whole, in growing together as a biblical community. I'm beyond excited to see what God has in store for us, as we continue to serve Him with the new knowledge we've gained.

## Alpha Course @ GII Praise Report

The Alpha Course is an Introduction to the Christian faith geared toward seekers, pre-believers and new believers for 13 weeks. On the 2 July 2016, 40 strangers of different ages ranging from 17 – 65+, from different backgrounds, and from different countries (including Singapore (naturally), Hong Kong, US and later Canada) embarked on a journey called the Alpha Course.

We give thanks for the 2 salvations through the course, 10 who received baptism of the Holy Spirit, 5 who received physical healing and all who were strengthened in their faith. Here are some testimonies:

"Alpha has been an interesting and fun experience. As a new believer, I got to know more about who is Jesus and why did Jesus die for us. I've learnt the importance of our faith and the power in our prayers. The weekend getaway was great, worshiping God and learning about the Holy Spirit with the amazing Alpha family. Not forgetting how I've also learnt about resisting evil, sharing the Gospel, the Church and so much more!

Through this Alpha, I got to experience and understand more of God's love for me through each and everyone in the course. Great food, great activities and great people, an amazing 3 months, an enlightening journey nevertheless!"

Xiu Ming, New Believer

"Prior to my arrival in Singapore I have been a "free thinker" almost all my life. Although this was a baseline in developing my current set of morals and the way I broadcast these morals to others, the question that had always surfaced up in my mind was, "Is There More to Life Than This"? Coincidentally, this topic was addressed in the first session of Alpha which I did not have the opportunity to attend. Regardless of that, I kept an open mind which led me to accept Christ prior to my engagement to Alpha.

After completing Alpha, I became aware that our God was always with me in the past and will continue to be my guide along my current path. Whether it be the Bible or through the interactions we have with one another, God works wonders by bringing these resources within our reach to help us along our spiritual journey towards understanding the meaning of life.

God is Great and God is Good! I thank the Lord that these resources of Alpha were just at my doorstep as it is a strong baseline in developing my relationship with fellow believers but more specifically with our

Gerald Chan, New Believer

"Alpha gave me an opportunity to explore the real meaning of life, to know more about Jesus through group discussions and games. I'm a new Christian, accepted Jesus about three months ago."

#### Elizabeth, New Convert

"I've benefited a lot from the course, answering many questions that I had never even thought about before."

#### Kenny, Young Adult

"I have never regretted ever to have gone for Alpha, it really changed my perspective on certain issues and indirectly changed my life."

#### Anonymous







Look out for upcoming Alpha Courses in 2017 running for 13 weeks. Invite your pre-believing friends and enjoy great fellowship as meals are provided.

#### **Alpha@GI**

Start Date: 24 Feb (Every Fri) Time: 7 – 10 pm

#### Alpha@GII

Start Date: 1 July (Every Sat)

Time: 12 - 3 pm

Please email **alpha@graceaog.org** for queries or if you want to serve in Alpha.



## PADDLE FOR LIFE 2016!



'Paddle for Life' is REACH Community Services Society's (RCSS) inaugural dragon boat event. More than a fundraising event, it is a platform to publicize the #TheForgottenYouth Movement.

A total of 100 participants and 40 volunteers gathered at Orchid Country Club for our very first signature fundraising event for the youth work at REACH. Of which, 3 teams of the dragon battle were from the YAYP and R-AGE congregation.

While they paddled hard, they also knew that they are encouraging more youths to take up the paddle and embark on a new journey to shape their lives for a better future.

Grace AG has been supporting RCSS financially all these while. More and more Church members are now coming on board to volunteer and to participate in our programs, be it for fund raising, or for outreach to the Community. For Paddle for Life 2016, R-Age and YAYP teams have participated to impact young lives on a journey towards hope and positive change.

The donations will help youths develop confidence and strengthen their character through sports engagements run by RCSS as well as help them to develop coping strategies and resilience through counselling and holistic casework intervention for a year.

We hope to see more Gracians take up the paddle at Paddle for Life 2017!





#### LIFE-LONG LEARNING

BY JASMIN LOW

If you asked me what would cause an exponential growth in your spiritual walk, I would confidently say, "Go on a missions trip". This is most of the time true. When our missions trip experience is a pleasurable one, we would easily have a fair amount of takeaways. We would be filled with gratitude for the experience God has given to us. We would have many amazing stories of God to share when we are back in Singapore. But when the trip experience is a trying one, well, what do you think? I think we most definitely would learn a lot from it as well! We have a choice. Would we just face the trial head on bitterly without processing it through with the Lord, or would we take that challenge, bring it to the Lord and ask Him to help us to get through this by His grace. If we choose the latter, we will learn something about Him and about ourselves.

I have definitely faced trying times during my missions trips. One of the most common challenges is to manage relationships and differences with your missions team member/s. It is actually normal to have tensions and frictions when working together. We are all different. We are given different strengths and weaknesses, that is why God never meant for us to be lone rangers. But during moments of tensions, would we "in humility count others more significant than yourselves" (Philippians 2:3).

Going on a missions trip does not just open your eyes to see the world that God loves, it also teaches us a lot on how we should be growing as a fellowship in our own local churches. Oftentimes, I would hear comments about the local church in Cambodia, or Myanmar, or Sri Lanka, such as, "They are really like a family!" Isn't that how we truly should relate to one another in the family of God? So if we witnessed such close-knitted communities overseas, shouldn't we too, bring it back to Singapore? I would love to!

#### **Missions Corner**

So if you have noticed, the missions corner at Koinonia, GI, has been around for about a month now. It is a place where we have resources about missions and we can gather to pray for missionaries, for the persecuted church, for our friends who are on missions trips etc. Don't forget to pray for unity and love for your friends who are on a missions trip the next time you visit the missions corner!

#### **Closing Thoughts**

Here at Grace Missions, we want more of our Gracians to respond to the call of the Great Commissions, especially to participate in God's global work. After all, Jesus said, "GO and make disciples of ALL nations, right?"



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On the 19th of September this year, a team of 11 youths, myself included, from R-AGE went to Sri Lanka to work with partner churches and the local schools to help educate the youths about issues such as drugs, alcohol and physical abuse. We also went to the believer's meetings and home churches, to pray for them and their ministry there.

It was a 5 hour drive to the North of Sri Lanka, Vavuniya, where we stayed for the next 7 days. Although some of us went with heavy hearts, the Lord proved to be faithful and showed us that he truly is our shepherd and we should not be afraid (we even wrote a song about it, which can be found on the R-AGE Facebook page). An instance was when we went for a believer's meeting and it was the first time some of us witnessed the manifestation of the Holy Spirit and were quite afraid, especially some of the younger ones.



At night, some even thought that their roommates were possessed. As hilarious as it sounds, the spiritual warfare was real. Fear was in our hearts as this topic of unclean spirits and demonic possession went on for quite a while, but the breakthrough came when we realigned our focus on God. He is faithful and spoke to one of our younger team members through Psalms 23:1 "The Lord is my shepherd..." reassuring us that He is protecting us and we should not be afraid.

Over the next few days, we experienced the joy of the Lord wherever we went. On the road, we worshipped, laughed and one of us even wrote a Christian rap. It was amazing and encouraging to see young ones growing so much and seeing God in a whole new light and being in awe of him. That was when God convicted me about ministry back home.

Even though we were sent to Sri Lanka to minister to the people there, God reminded me of our ministry to those around us back in Singapore. Seeing how much the younger members in our team have grown throughout this trip

really showed me how important investing in the lives around us is.





Sometimes we think that our ministry to the lost starts in less developed countries, but the real test comes when we return home. When we learn to love the people that are near us, only then can we love those that we do not know. Our hearts were full at the end of the trip and personally, it is something that I hope everyone gets to experience! So you should sign up for a missions trip too!

#### UPCOMING MISSIONS TRIPS

Please pray with the missions trippers for God's protection to rest on them, and that they would be sensitive to the Holy Spirit's leading.

#### **EAST ASIA**

30/10/2016 - 06/11/2016 Ps Mee Noy

#### **VIETNAM**

01/11/2016 - 07/11/2016 Ronnie Lee

#### **KARIMUN**

05/11/2016 – 07/11/2016 Sharmaine Zeng

#### **EAST ASIA**

07/11/2016 - 14/11/2016 Rev Walter Lim

#### EAST ASIA

07/11/2016 – 14/11/2016 Rev Richard Wee

#### **EAST ASIA**

10/11/2016 – 19/11/2016 Rev Emily Teo

#### VIETNAM (IGA)

12/11/2016 – 13/11/2016 Rev Calvin Lee

#### **CAMBODIA**

16/11/2016 – 24/11/2016 Soon Kim Tat

#### NEPAL

20/11/2016 – 25/11/2016 Rev Tan Shwu Eng

#### CAMBODIA

25/11/2016 - 02/12/2016 Ps Benjamin Wong

#### SRI LANKA

25/11/2016 – 03/12/2016 Ricky Lui

#### KARIMUN

26/11/2016 - 28/11/2016 Joshua Ng

#### EAST ASIA

27/11/2016 – 04/12/2016 Ps Jasvin Ng

#### **EAST ASIA**

27/11/2016 - 05/12/2016 Rev Richard Wee

#### **EAST JAVA**

27/11/2016 - 05/12/2016 Roger Tan

#### INTERVIEW WITH ALEX TEE

Alex Tee and his 4 year-old son, Eli, was part of a 10-person team led by Ps Ronald Seet to Hyderabad, India from 29 September to 06 October. Grace Missions catches up with Alex and asks him share about his trip:

Grace Missions (GM) Alex Tee (AT)

#### GM: Can you tell us what you and your team did in Hyderabad?

AT: The first few days were spent ministering in Sharon AG church. To start, the ladies in the team led a moving time of women's ministry and testified about God's redemptive work in their lives. This was followed by marketplace ministry, targeted at those who are in business or employed outside the church. We also preached at the weekend services, and finished the work at the church with a two-day training for church planters. Due to the wide geographical spread of the churches planted — 176 in all thus far, it made more sense to gather the church planters in a central location where we can worship as one body and be equipped for further works.

Apart from the ministry in church, the team visited feeding centers which are part of the social outreach of Sharon AG. We would regale the children with songs and Bible stories before proceeding to dish out food while mingling among them.

#### GM: Can you share with us about what God has impressed on your heart during this trip?

AT: Even under persecution, there are so many people in India who love the Lord and who have laid their lives down to serve Him. Often, they lack the resources required to meet the practical needs of a growing church and fund critical ministries. In line with what God has been laying on my heart this year, these ministers, together with their marketplace leaders need to be empowered and commissioned to develop small sustainable for-profit enterprises to alleviate the poverty that is so prevalent in their circles. With that, the children have a real shot at breaking the cycle of poverty through education to further accelerate the process of social transformation. What a difference it will make if we felt God's heart for the poor and fatherless and took a step to be His hands and feet to love the marginalized in a tangible way.





#### GM: What was going through your mind when you allow your son, Eli, to mingle with the local Indians?

AT: I thought it was fantastic. Firstly, it helps bridge any sort of cultural or racial barrier that might have existed before. Some months ago, we vaguely remember him remarking about the difference in skin colour of the people he meets in school so watching how he was in total comfort among his new Indian friends was great. Secondly, he's got a lot to learn from these children. Many of them have overcome some very adverse circumstances to live bravely, coming up with simple games and getting by with basic rations. There are also those who have learnt to commit bible verses to memory at a young age, they are all inspirations.

#### GM: Do you have anything you like to share with your readers in the Grace Bulletin?

AT: As Christ followers, I believe it's most important to get this right - loving God and loving people. We went to India in obedience to those commands. The presence of the Holy Spirit to help and to unite was very evident the whole time we were there. All we brought along were our two fish and five loaves and God multiplied the little we had. We experienced all manners of joy ministering albeit in basic facilities, and enduring world famous traffic jams.

As for bringing a 4 year-old along, I learnt that especially when we are doing God's bidding, His grace is truly sufficient. From little things such as an enlarged appetite during breakfasts when the food is not doused in masala, to the simple activities such as drawing and colouring that occupied him through the many pulpit sessions we had, to how he completely fell in love and was loved by the uncles and aunties in the team and in the church, God's outstretched arm was everywhere to be seen. The conversations we had on and since the trip suggest that it had left a deep impression, and he must have had lots of fun because he's literally the only one I have come across who has asked to return before he's even left the country!



#### PERFECT TEAM, PERFECT MISSION BY CHENG TEE HIANG

As a new believer, one message that sinks deeply into my mind is that God planned for everything even long before we were born. For that reason, I believe God is the Master Planner of our missions trip to Pekanbaru Indonesia on 23-28 September 2016. God is perfect, hence, we had a perfect team and a perfect mission trip — a trip that was so fulfilling, spiritually enriching, palate-pleasing (the food was great!) and fun that it makes me want to go back to Pekanbaru again with the same team members.

Together with my wife ST, we only got to know the other seven team-members in June. But early preparation and many pre-trip meetings and fellowship sessions helped the team to bond better and faster. I know very little of how God works in His ways to prepare each of us and bring us together for the missions trip but what I do know is enough for me to testify of His glory.

There were anxious moments where the trip might be cancelled. In late August, the haze from Sumatra was felt in full force in Singapore, several team members also faced other challenges, such as workplace pressure and getting approval for their annual leave. These could be spiritual attacks or simply God's ways to build our faith. Whatever the cause, it did not matter. We prayed fervently to God to clear all obstacles so to make way for us and He faithfully obliged. The winds changed direction and the haze cleared in September, and trippers' annual leave were approved. Time and again, God showed that He wanted us to trust Him and surrender ourselves to Him.

During this trip, we were involved in the local churches on Sunday services, children's ministry, children's feeding program, prayer walk and home visitations.

In one of the local churches, God moved through the word of knowledge, tripper TK mentioned that God wants to heal someone who is partially blind. As members came out to be prayed for, including one person who couldn't see things clearly! God also healed two trippers. Team leader RL had an accident, he fell through a drain, smashed his big toe, immediately there was bleeding under the toe-nail, had turned dark red and black. The next morning, the toe was healed completely, the skin under the toe-nail was pink, there was no more throbbing pain! Another tripper CH had eczema, a skin irritation that caused itchiness and redness on his hands and legs. The moment he was in Pekanbaru, his skin condition improved, itchiness and redness completely gone!

The most exciting and memorable moments for me were the strong spiritual encounters we had during two of the home visits.



When we arrived at the first location, an old and run-down wooden house, we were warmly greeted by about 15 adults and several children. They were mostly relatives living nearby and had gathered that night. Amongst the adults was an excited old lady, she was prayed for by one tripper on our team two years ago, and now she shared that she is healed of her partial blindness! We began to worship God in high spirit. Even though I am usually not very spiritually-sensitive, I could feel the atmosphere was very charged up. Tripper TK shared about the name of Jesus, and after the message, TK and CH started praying and laying hands on the people. The host of the house fell under the power of the Holy Spirit. The husband started to tremble, jump and began shouting in tongues. I managed to position myself behind him, just in time to catch him when he dropped to the floor. Two other ladies were overcome by the power of the Spirit. It was a moment of chaos! A few of us had to move around quickly to catch those who were about to slump to the floor. At the same time, several children were asleep on the floor. In fear that they would be stepped onto, I carried two of them to a safe corner of the house. Calmness slowly returned after all the people were prayed for. It was truly an eye-opening experience for me that night.

When we visited the second house, the host appeared to be very depressed with absolutely no joy shown on her face. She told us that she had been unwell for several months, and recently she had been vomiting out most of the food she ate. She went for medical checks but the doctors said there is nothing physically wrong with her. God gave the word of knowledge to CH, told her that she was harbouring unforgiveness in her heart, that was hindering her recovery. She admitted that she was angry with her two neighbours



whom she argued with two weeks ago. TK started to pray, the local pastor laid hands on her and immediately she fell under the power of the Spirit. She shouted briefly and prayed in tongues while lying on the floor. After she got up, I looked but did not find any trace of relief in her face. Later, under the inspiration of the Spirit, ST mentioned that she was still bitter with her husband, who left her two years ago, but has returned to her. She finally admitted and we started praying for her again. She went under the power of the Spirit. While she was lying on the floor, ST knelt beside her and prayed passionately for her. At that point, I felt very spiritually-connected and started to pray for the family too. Before we left her house, I saw a glimpse of smile and relief on her face and at that moment, I knew that God had liberated her.

I wish I could write down everything I heard and seen in this trip so that you could fully appreciate God's mighty power at work but it's not possible. You have to be on a missions trip to experience Him and witness His full glory at work, for yourself. All our team members are grateful to God for giving us the opportunity to serve Him. It's true that we can never out-give God, for our willingness to serve Him in Pekanbaru, He handsomely rewarded us with this trip that was packed with fun, joy and fulfillment. All glory to God for the perfect team and the perfect trip!

#### EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

NOVEMBER 2016 -JANUARY 2017

Event details are subject to changes, please refer to www.graceaog.org for latest info & updates.

DATE	EVENT	VENUE & TIME
02/11	Lunchtime Fasting & Prayer Meeting	GI L3 Emmaus Hall 12pm
03/11 – 24/11	Building Strong Families	GI L5 Zion 7.30pm
18/11 – 20/11	Building Altars Of Transformation All Over Singapore by Rev. Dr. John W. Mulinde	GI L3 Bethel Hall 7.30pm
30/11	J333 Prayer Meeting (Combined)	GI L1 Galilee 7.30pm
07/12	Lunchtime Fasting & Prayer Meeting	GI L3 Emmaus Hall 12pm
22-24/12	Who is Greater?	GI L3 Bethel Hall 7.30pm GII L2 Sanctuary 7.30pm
24-25/12	Christmas Service	GI L3 Bethel Hall 7.00pm
30/12	Thanksgiving Service (Combined)	GI L3 Bethel Hall 7pm
04/01/17	Lunchtime Fasting & Prayer Meeting	GI L3 Emmaus Hall 12pm
13-15/01/17	Revival Meeting By Jason Frenn	TBC
23-25/01/17	Staff Retreat (Combined)	TBC
25/01/17	J333 Prayer Meeting (Combined)	GI L1 Galilee 7.30pm
28/01/17	Chinese New Year Service (Combined)	GI & GII 9.30am
29/01/17	Sunday Services (Combined)	GI & GII 9am & 11.15am



## SPECIAL CALL: Singers for 2016 Christmas Choir!

A Special call for singers from all English services (NEXUS & Adult) to form a combined Grace Christmas Choir for the evangelistic Christmas services this year.

What a great opportunity to sing as a BIG family, bringing glad tidings to everyone, including the invited family, relatives and friends.

If you are interested, please email to  ${\it Christmas2016@graceaog.org}$ . Sign up now!



Heartiest congratulations to the following couples whereby the Lord continues to bless & guide them with love, wisdom & strength as they embark on their new journey together!

Mr Tan Kian Liang and Ms Cindy Lee Mei San 26 November 2016

**GII CAFÉ** will be CLOSED on 20th November 2016. It will be OPEN on 8th January 2017.



## WELL DONE!

## Heartiest Congratulations to our Graduates!

On Reaching This Important Milestone In Your Lives.



#### **ACTS College**

(FROM LEFT TO RIGHT)

Wan Wai Lan

Master of Theological Studies

Michelle Leong Sow Fong Bachelor of Theology

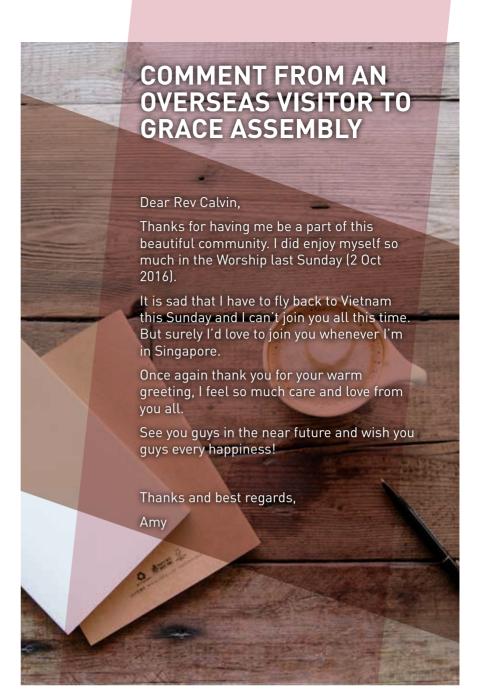
Sharon How Xin Yun Certificate of Christian Ministry

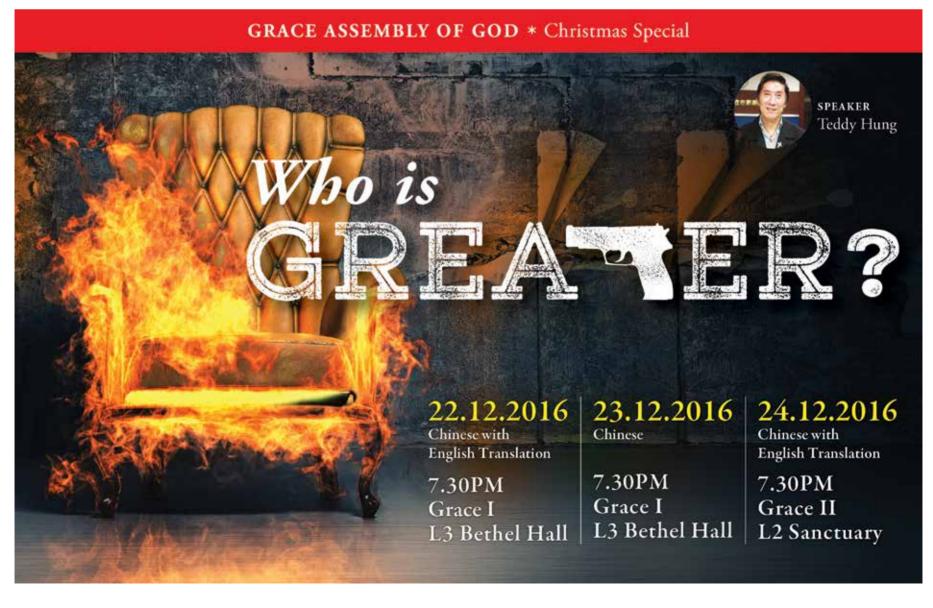
Lim See Ann

Certificate of Christian Ministry

From pastors, staff and members of







#### 事工介绍

## 刘真真的生命转变

父母期望我能够像我的名字一样 一真心热爱自己的人生。

就像神所教导,约4:23「用心灵诚 实来敬拜祂。」活出真实美好的 生命。

我有个幸福的家,家中有父母大哥

小弟小妹, 我排行老二, 虽然我没有姐姐, 但神赐我许多弟兄姐妹 在教会的大家庭陪同我成长。

#### 为什么选择恩典堂作为我全职服侍?

林后5:17「若有人在基督里,他就是新造的人,旧事已过,都变成新 的了。」

2014年我被前雇主裁退、深感自己是个极无用之人。但奇妙的是、 神开路,带领我进入恩典堂神圣的大家庭,拣选我做全职服侍 — 中 文事工行政事务同工。

虽然我对教会的事工,一窍不通,也不知道自己哪方面可以 做? 但是感恩人事部没有嫌弃我,并给我机会做,我满心欢 喜,因为我可以报答耶稣,是我人生中做了最美好的喜事。 因为我是大罪人,蒙神的爱,我被饶恕,得以救离火坑了。

在这个服侍中, 神也不断的借着牧师们塑造我, 并发掘我的 潜能。其实只要有机会,我都愿意学习,做好每件小事,享 受经历神与我同工的喜乐与荣耀。

今天,我深信主一直与我同在保守着我,因着神的怜悯的爱和大 能, 我愿意降服在主面前, 顺服跟随祂。每天跟随神, 就能成为我 的满足,并将一切荣耀归给主!

#### 什么事让我持续不断服侍神?

『若人服侍我,就当跟从我!我在哪里,服侍我的人就在哪里!』 『神给我1千两, 我要献给神超过1千两!』

回忆中学时, 我热爱舞蹈, 而今, 神就以此恩赐, 为祂做恩典操老 师,这服侍对个性内向的我而言,是非常大的挑战。不仅要面对陌 生人,还要爱陌生人如同自己。

万事互相效力, 叫爱神的人得益处。罗8:28

现在我最大的满足感就是借着恩典操不仅让自己、居民、恩友们都 可以舞动身心、舞出健康, 领受神的爱和祝福, 更能让大家以舞蹈 尽情来敬拜赞美神。





#### 九月十二日

## 中文堂 领袖营















罗素薇姐妹(第一排中间)

### 罗素薇姐妹的见证

上帝的作为真奇秒, 祂用爱的教导指引祂的孩子们, 祂用慈爱的双手一步一步地牵引着他们, 从不撇下他们!

我是罗素薇,来自马来西亚。参与 恩典二的崇拜聚会已经一年多了, 去年六月份决志,在今年的五月受 洗。我宣告我是属于耶稣基督的!

感谢赞美主! 荣耀全归我们的上帝, 赞美祂那奇妙的作为!

我生长在一个佛教信仰的家庭中,公公对我们的影响很深。在我年幼时,我的公公就已经皈依成了佛家子弟,过的是半个和尚的生活,每日都会敲木鱼、打坐和念经。家中摆设了许多的偶像、偶像的图片和书籍。由于常接触佛经,因此年幼的我和哥哥就已经会背诵佛歌和佛经。

在中学时期,我变得很叛逆,性格大有转变,常把朋友排第一,做事情也只是跟着自己的感觉走。我很自我,不听别人的意见,也很固执、霸道,我的父母更是拿我没办法。我只跟着这世界的观念,认为命运是掌握在自己的手中,所以从不听别人的劝勉,我选择走自己认为正确的道路。结果,我经历了很多伤心痛苦的事情。我开始变得冷漠、不相信人、也没有同理心,还常常感到自卑。

感谢神!上帝没有因此撇下我不管,也没有纪念我以前所犯的过错。祂不断借着周围的人来向我见证祂的荣耀和奇妙的作为,一步一步地牵引我来到祂的面前。两年前,我来到新加坡工作。公司来了一位做兼职的同事,她是一位基督徒,我们俩都很谈得来,她成为我交心好朋友。

不久,我搬去和她同住。她和她的父母对我的影响很深,他们非常疼爱我,所以我也一样跟着叫他们爸妈。

在我决志信主前,神就让我经历了祂的慈爱。去年的五月初,因为我个人的疏忽,在网站的银行户口号码被窃取了,存款不翼而飞。当这位同事的家人知道这件事后,就和我一起同心祷告。奇妙地神垂听了我们的祷告,我的户口的存款又失而复得了。

决志信主后,我学会如何祷告、感谢神。我常向神述说我的事情。每一次经历神,使我变得更有信心,更加懂得如何去依靠祂。我知道祷告的能力,如同神的话语大有能力一样!当我为着个人的事情、家人、身边的朋友们或是教会的弟兄姐妹祷告时,神都按祂美好的旨意,应允我的祈求。上帝开启我的心,让我明白真理,教导我重新去认识什么叫"爱",学习怎样爱人如己。神不断地用祂的话语来喂养我,用祂的道来教导我,用祂完全的爱浇灌我。祂改变了我以前那些不合乎祂喜悦的个性、态度和想法,使我的生命有了转化。

神在我家中行了许多神迹奇事,祂把我的儿子、婆婆、妈妈、哥哥和妹妹,一个接一个地吸引到祂的面前。婆婆、妈妈、哥哥和妹妹都已经决志信主了。我的哥哥还决定要受洗归入主的大家庭呢!目前剩下我的爸爸还未信主,但是我深信有一天他会以基督为他的依归,因为我已宣告我的爸爸是上帝的孩子,是属神的子民!

我要常常记得神所赐下的恩典,并且常存感恩的心。我要一生一世住在耶和华的殿中,不偏离祂的道,并且在真理里面站立得住。把我生命中一切的事情完全地交托仰望在祂大能的手中,由祂来掌管我的生命。阿们!

## GRACE SERVICES

GRACE I SERVICES: 355 T	Sanglin Road Singapore 247960
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SATURDAY 1.30 PM Hokkien Service	Galilee	Level 1			
SATURDAY 5 PM Young Adults & Young Professionals (YAYP) Service Cantonese Service Elevate @ R-AGE Youth (14-19 Yrs Old)	Bethel Galilee Emmaus	Level 3 Level 1 Level 3			
SUNDAY 9 AM English Service Mandarin Service Shine @ Grace Kids (7-10 Yrs Old) Sparkle @ Grace Kids (3-6 Yrs Old)	Bethel Galilee Eden Zion	Level 3 Level 1 Level 2 Level 5			
SUNDAY 11.15 AM English Service Filipino Service Emerge @ R-AGE Youth (11-13 Yrs Old) Shine @ Grace Kids (7-10 Yrs Old) Sparkle @ Grace Kids (3-6 Yrs Old)	Bethel Galilee Emmaus Eden Zion	Level 3 Level 1 Level 3 Level 2 Level 5			
SUNDAY 5 PM Khush Khabri Fellowship	Emmaus	Level 3			
GRACE II SERVICES: 1 Bukit Batok West Ave 4 Singapore 659125					
SATURDAY 2 PM Elevate @ R-AGE Youth (13-19 Yrs Old)	Chapel	Level 4			
SUNDAY 9 AM English Service Mandarin Service Shine @ Grace Kids (7-12 Yrs Old) Sparkle @ Grace Kids (3-6 Yrs Old)	Chapel Sanctuary Love Kindness	Level 4 Level 2 Level 2 Level 4			
SUNDAY 11.15 AM English Service Hokkien Service Shine @ Grace Kids (7-12 Yrs Old) Sparkle @ Grace Kids (3-6 Yrs Old)	Sanctuary Chapel Love Kindness	Level 2 Level 4 Level 2 Level 4			
SUNDAY 1.30 PM Filipino Service	Chapel	Level 4			

J333 2, 9, 16, 23 November, 7.30 pm @ GI L3 Emmaus & GII L4 Chapel Combined J333 (English & Chinese) 30 November, 7.30 pm @ GI L1 Galilee

#### **GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD**

Grace I: 355 Tanglin Road Singapore 247960
Office hours: 9am - 6pm (Mon-Fri), 8.30am -1.30pm (Sun)

**Grace II: 1 Bukit Batok West Avenue 4 Singapore 659125** 

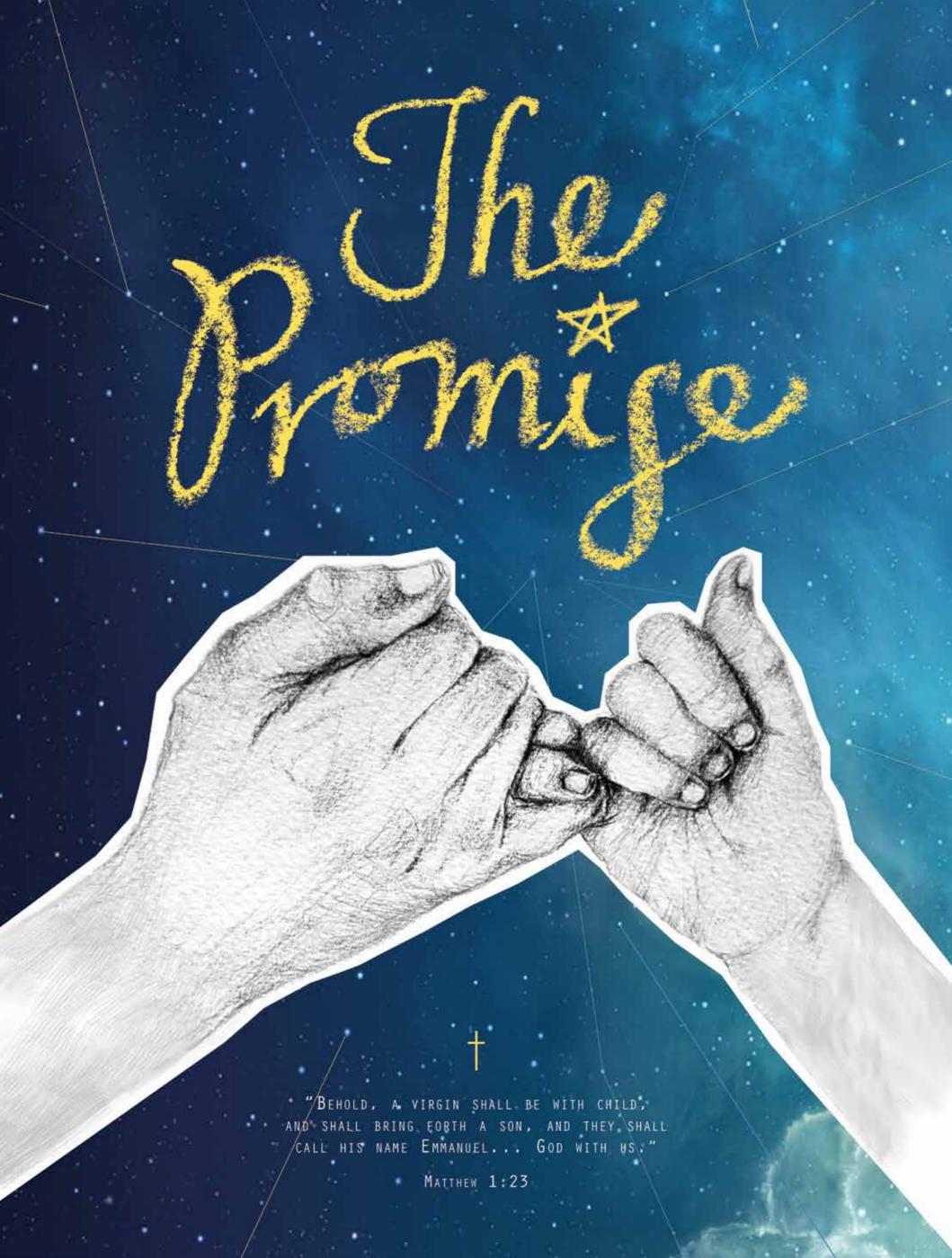
Office hours: 8.30am -1.30pm (Sun)

#### For More Information

CALL +65 6410 0800 | VISIT www.graceaog.org | FACEBOOK US www.facebook.com/graceaogsingapore

#### **GOT TESTIMONIES, SUGGESTIONS, FEEDBACK?**

email us at comms@graceaog.org







"One generation shall commend your works to another, and shall declare your mighty acts." Psalm 145:4

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