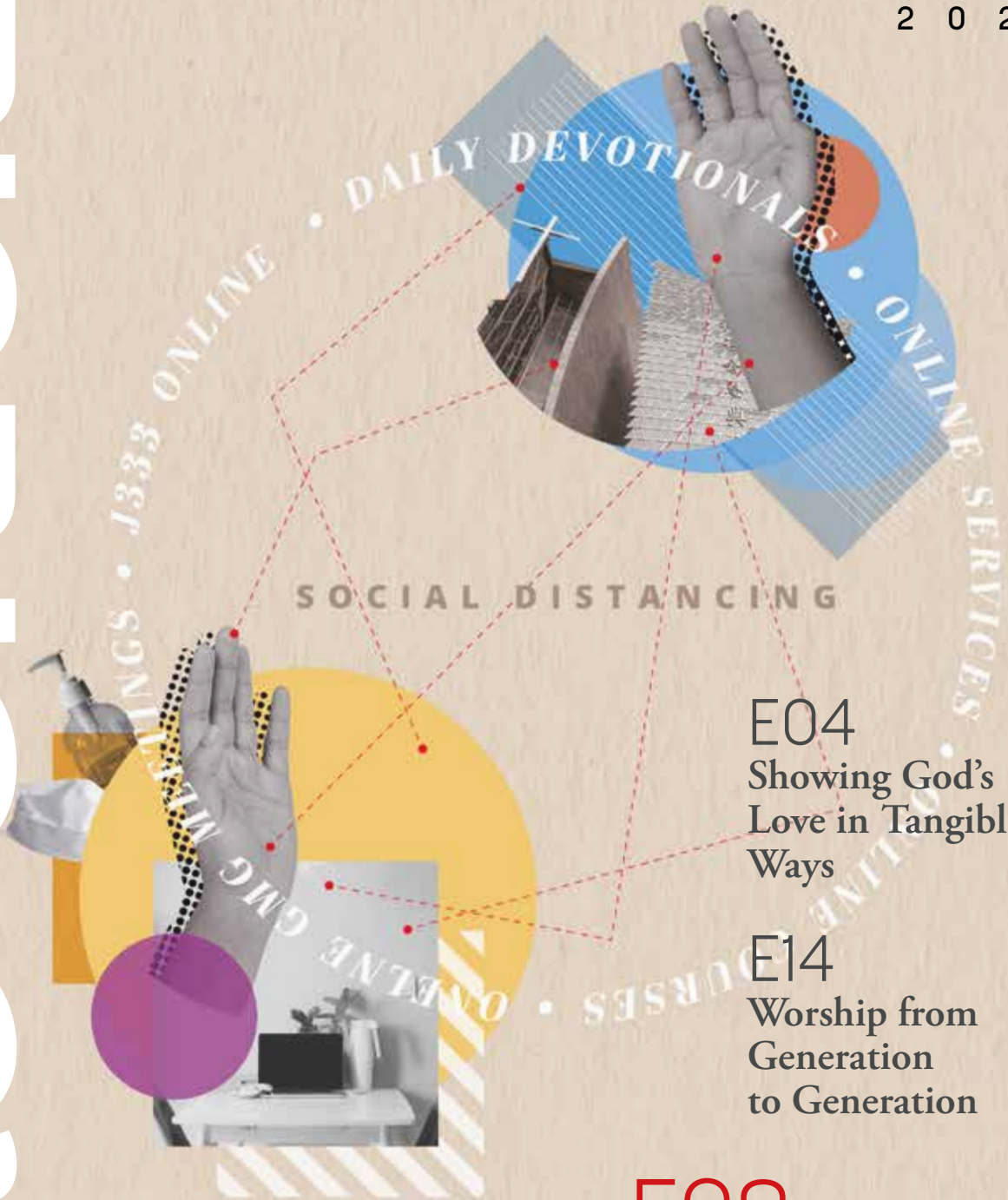


The Gracian

No 03
2020



E04
Showing God's
Love in Tangible
Ways

E14
Worship from
Generation
to Generation

E28
New Executive
Church Board
2020-2021

MCI (P) 070/12/2019



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Grace Assembly Of God
神召会恩典堂



STARTING ON

25 July

SERMON SERIES

LOVE INC. (*Epistles of John*)

BIG IDEA

In the manner God loves us, so we love one another not just in words but also in actions.

KEY VERSE

We love because he first loved us. 1 John 4:19

SYNOPSIS

In times such as this, the world looks for a love that's both hopeful and truthful. The letters of John tell about the richness of God's multi-faceted love in true fellowship. As His children, we are to demonstrate this love, within and without our community. It is a love that is inclusive, true, discerning, overcoming, and righteous. His love calls us to do what is right, to love in both words and actions, to defend the truth, and to intercede for others. Love Inc. exhorts us to incorporate and embody the good news of God's love for others in our daily lives, allowing us to live out the Gospel. In our current climate of fear, suspicion, and self-preservation, the God of love sends us out as His church to spread hope and truth through acts of love. Indeed, we love because He first loved us.

SERMONS

- 1. Love Includes**
1 John 1:1-4
- 2. Love Confesses**
1 John 1:5-2:2
- 3. Love Obeys**
1 John 2:3-11
- 4. Love Different**
1 John 2:12-28
- 5. Love Right**
1 John 2:29-3:10
- 6. Love Acts**
1 John 3:11-24
- 7. Love Defends**
*1 John 4:1-6; 2 John;
3 John*
- 8. Perfect Love**
1 John 4:7-21
- 9. Love Overcomes**
1 John 5:1-12
- 10. Love Intercedes**
1 John 5:13-21

CONTENTS | N^o 03 / 2020



MESSAGE FROM OUR SENIOR PASTOR

E02-03 New Normal: Weekend Daily Church

IMPACT

E04-06 Showing God's Love in Tangible Ways
 E08 Sowing Seeds of Faith
 E09 Breaking Through Hard Ground
 E10 Lockdown
 E12 Undisrupted in training gospel ministers
 E13 The Unfinished Story

GROW

E14-17 Worship from Generation to Generation
 E18-19 Conducting Our first GDI Course Online: Grace Baptism and Membership Class
 E20 Grace Missional College: The Book of Hebrews

GRACE CONNECT

E22-23 FLiving ZOOMING in to J333 — prayer is the greater work
 E24 Keep Worshipping, Even as the Keys Change

E25 YAYP's First Online Campus Camp
 E26-27 Recruitment
 E28-29 Executive Church Board Members

STORIES OF GRACE

E30-31 Going Online: GMGs Share Their Experiences
 E32-33 New Wineskins for 'Winter'
 E34-35 Testimony
 E36-37 Restored to Wholeness Ministry: Feeling Alone in Dealing with Grief & Loss
 E38 Overcomers
 E39 How to be a Dad, and not just a father
 E40 Be our Beacon of Hope



Scan QR code for our ONLINE church services.

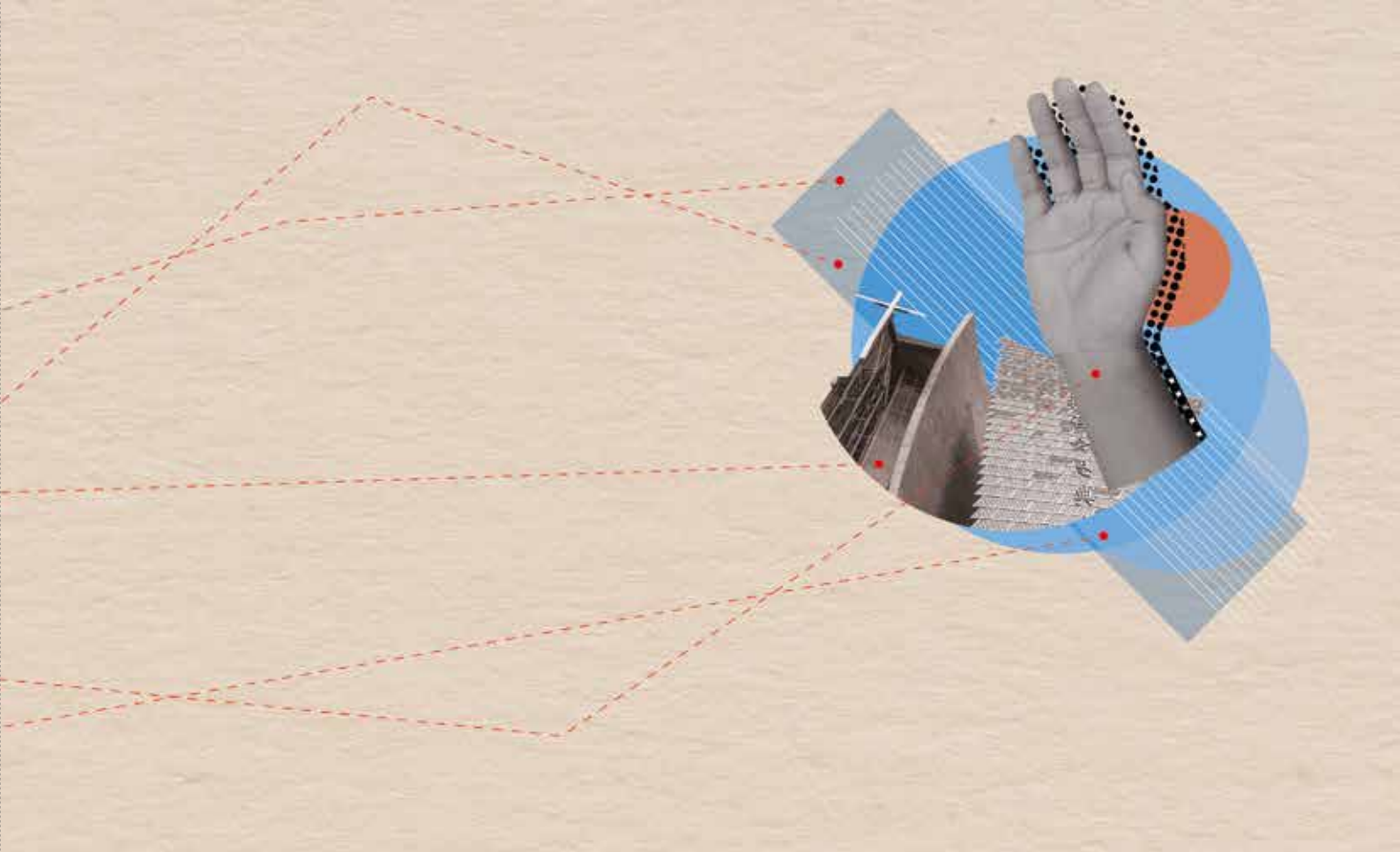
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*Thank you for your contributions!
 We are grateful to Gracians who have contributed to this issue, in one way or another.*



NEW NORMAL
~~WEEKEND~~
Daily
CHURCH



Shalom!

Grace Assembly has closed its doors for on-site services and activities since the weekend of 8-9 February. The last five months have been trying for many of us, especially during the circuit breaker period, when most of us hibernated at home to flatten the curve on the number of COVID-19 infection cases. It was the first time in our lives that we saw everyone wearing masks in Singapore except in one's home, and no one was allowed to eat at restaurants, food courts, and eateries.

It was also during this period when we celebrated Good Friday and Resurrection Sunday through our online services for the first time in our church's 70 years' history! As a local church, we did not allow the circuit breaker to hinder us from discipleship and continuing with our spiritual activities. We launched *Grace Every Morning*, our daily morning devotionals, to enable Gracians to start their day in God's Word, and to end their day with our nightly online J333 prayer meetings. Through this process, we have shifted our weekly on-site J333 prayer meetings to a nightly online intercession time.

Our Grace Discipleship Institute has also offered online courses in the last few months to ensure that Gracians continued to be disciplined with God's truths while working from home. Our online Alpha Course saw more than 70 participants eagerly seeking the truth and love of God during this pandemic.

Through this virus crisis, Grace Assembly has transformed herself from a weekend-focused church to a daily church in discipling believers! We thank God that this process of transformation has allowed the pastoral team and leaders of the church to grow in our confidence in using technology to disciple believers and reach out to pre-believers. The initial struggles of using online technologies have become an impetus for us to harness their strengths to disciple every Gracian without our physical premises. I want to thank the full-time staff for responding very quickly to these changes by changing ministry paradigms, and spending many hours learning new skills to minister to Gracians across different platforms.

Without a vaccine and reliable treatments for the COVID-19 virus in the

near future, our lives will be governed by safe distancing measures, wearing of masks, cleaning of hands, and telecommuting for work. These new norms in society will shape the future of how churches will operate. Grace Assembly will have to change our methods of ministry without compromising the need to stay connected with Gracians, and to make disciples of Jesus Christ.

As much as we long for the earliest opportunity to meet again in our church premises and our small groups, we also need to be ready for a long fight against the COVID-19 virus by using online platforms to function as a local church. We must remain agile and nimble in adapting to the changing situation in Singapore, and position Grace Assembly to meet the needs of our members, community, and nations, and to fulfill the Great Commission during these unprecedented times!

Rev. Dr. Wilson Teo
Senior Pastor

Showing **GOD'S LOVE** in Tangible Ways

BY Selina Esther Lim, Head of Communications

In Mark 12:31, Jesus commanded us to “to love your neighbour as yourself”. Our desire is for Gracians to not just “love God” but also to “love people”. Community is one of our church’s key pillars and that is what we set out to do – loving and caring for our neighbours in the community through tangible actions.

Our on-site services and activities have been suspended since 8-9 February, and with almost everyone cooped up at home during the two-month circuit breaker period, all community outreach activities came to a halt. But these did not stop Grace Assembly from finding other means and ways to reach out to those in need and we give thanks to God for these open doors!

Here’s a quick summary of the initiatives that Grace Assembly has implemented:

1. YAYP members bringing online church to our elderly Gracians (photo taken before circuit breaker)
2. Pastors Wilson and Patrick speaking with Mr Sukari, Chairman of the Jamek Queenstown Mosque
3. Blessing our neighbour, Jamek Queenstown Mosque, with 200 bottles of hand sanitisers
4. Connecting with migrant workers online through Conversational English class
5. One-stop Grace Helpline to help and connect with fellow Gracians
6. Pastor Patrick receiving food sponsored by GMG volunteers for SSP residents



1.

1. One-stop Grace Helpline

Many people have been affected by COVID-19, financially, mentally and emotionally, including Gracians. In early April, the church launched the one-stop Grace Helpline to reach out to those who need any form of assistance, including prayer, counselling, short-term financial assistance and help to connect to Grace Missional Groups. This helpline also allows Gracians to connect and partner the church in helping those in need.

2. Reaching out to elderly Gracians

Since we suspended our on-site church services, many elderly members were unable to watch the online sermons.

Before the circuit breaker measures kicked in on 7 April, some of our members from Young Adults and Young Professionals (YAYP) were

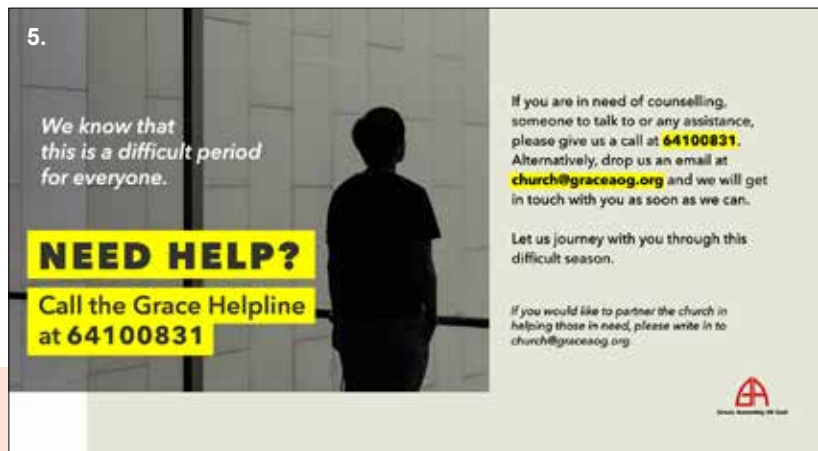
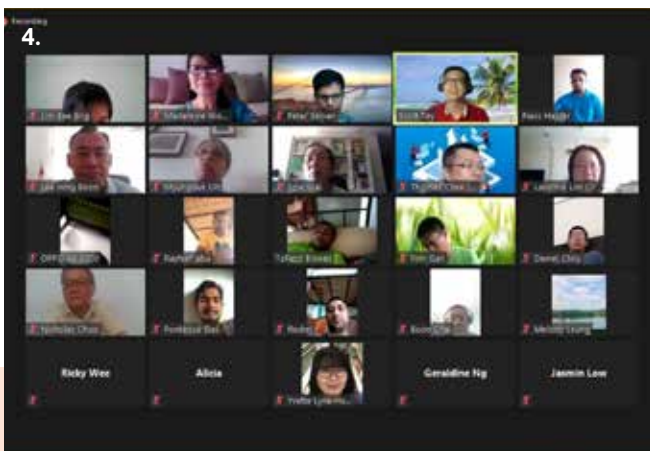
mobilised to visit the elderly Gracians in their homes with their tablets and laptops, to bring our online church to them! Praise God for these Next-Gen Gracians!

Unfortunately, when measures kicked in to restrict visitors, and at our church’s medical advisory council’s advice, we had to halt these visits temporarily as well.

However, with the circuit breaker measures eased in Phase 2, we will be looking to reinstate this programme which creates an excellent opportunity for intergenerational Gracians to interact with one another!

3. Distribution of masks and sanitisers

The church has distributed more than 7,000 masks and sanitisers to the community, as well as to



migrant workers at Sungei Tengah Lodge as part of our local missions work. Unfortunately, we could not continue doing so when the circuit breaker measures kicked in in April.

The church also delivered 200 bottles of hand sanitisers to bless our neighbour, Jamek Queenstown Mosque, located across from Grace@Tanglin, when they reopened their doors for private worship during Phase One of Safe Reopening.

4. Reaching out to Migrant Workers

Although we could not meet them face-to-face, the church still managed to reach out to our migrant workers in Singapore by recruiting Gracians to befriend and teach them Conversational English via online lessons!

Our Grace Missions team also held an online Hari Raya party for them

in May and the planning for another party on National Day is already underway!

Through these, we hope that we can be a vessel of God's love to touch and comfort them even when they are miles away from their families in a foreign land during a worldwide pandemic.

5. S3P@GraceBukitBatok

During the circuit breaker period, we read that there was an increase in the number of rough sleepers who needed temporary shelter.

God has blessed Grace Assembly with our own buildings. Since our church premises at both Grace@Tanglin and Grace@BukitBatok were closed during the two-month circuit breaker period and all the staff and children from the Grace House Kindergarten



were also away during the month-long school holidays in May, the church decided to use our premises at Grace@BukitBatok as a Safe Sound Sleeping Place, or S3P, to house some of these rough sleepers temporarily.

Besides temporary lodging, the church also provided meals for the residents. We were grateful to members from some of our Grace Missional Groups (GMGs) who pooled their resources together to buy and deliver food and care packs to the residents at S3P@GraceBukitBatok.

The operations of S3P@GraceBukit-Batok ceased when the circuit breaker period ended on 1 June. The Ministry of Social & Family Development has since transferred all the residents to other temporary shelters.

After the residents left, we also carried out disinfection so that Grace House Kindergarten could welcome their teachers and children back to a safe environment when they resumed their classes after the school holidays.

As a church, we are glad that we could share and use God's provisions to us, to serve others by offering help in a very tangible way to those who needed it. Through our actions, we pray that the beneficiaries have experienced God's love and comfort, especially during these challengin times.

If you are willing to contribute or serve the community through any of our church's initiatives, do connect with us via the Grace Helpline at 64100831 or drop us an email at church@graceaog.org.



Act of Grace Testimony from B&S GMG

This is a testimony of how a simple question, a small discussion and some willing hands brought about an act of grace by the Bigger and Smaller GMG.

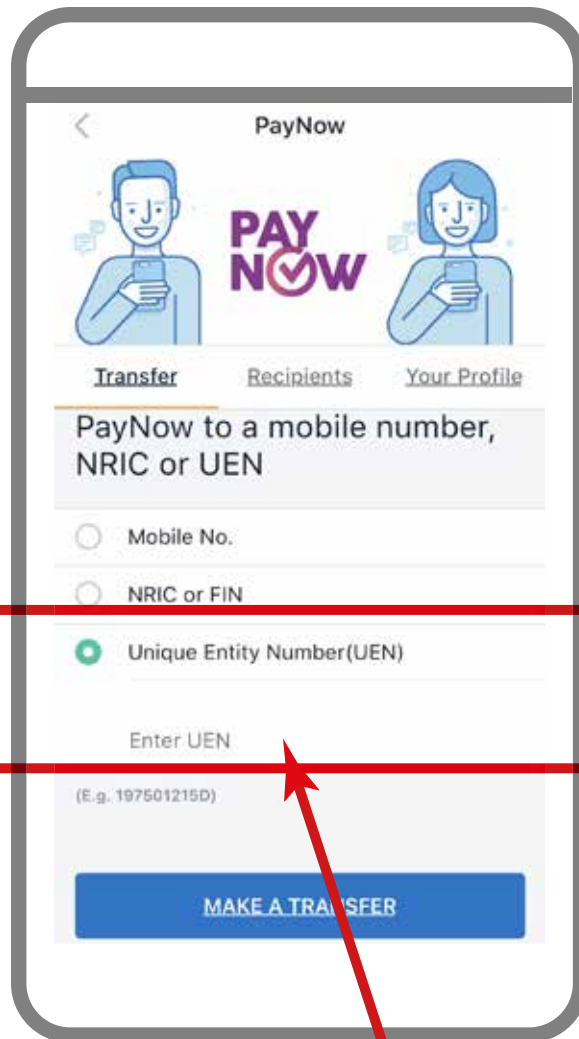
After spending time in prayer, as well as research and analysis of the needs in our region, a group of us yielded to a desire to bless people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

We started the process by contacting our Regional Pastor, Pastor Wai Ching, to check if the church had any programmes that we could assist in. In the end, we decided to support the Safe Sound Sleeping Place or S3P@GraceBukitBatok — one of the programmes that were offered to us.

We contacted Pastor Patrick Lee who was in charge of the S3P programme. He suggested that we could help by providing the temporary residents with some meals. We agreed on four dates to deliver the meals. The GMG members had a quick discussion through text messages and decided to add on two goodie bags to bless the S3P residents. We prayed that they would experience the love of God and His mercy whilst staying at our Grace@BukitBatok premises.

To God be the glory for a chance to serve Him!

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Sowing **SEEDS** of **FAITH**

The story of Brother Samir,
an Indian migrant
worker in Singapore*

BY Jasmin Low,
Corporate Communications

Brother Samir is one of the many migrant workers who keeps in touch with our teacher-volunteer, Sister Madeleine. Besides texting Brother Samir daily to find out how he is doing, Sister Madeleine invited him to attend the online Conversational English Classes run by Grace Assembly for migrant workers. In doing so, they had the opportunity to share about their lives.

Brother Samir shared that he had an employer who treated him very well and that he is motivated to work hard to provide a good education for his five-year-old daughter, Ria. Before the circuit breaker, Ria would sometimes call him during work, so he had to keep the calls brief. Thankfully, during the circuit breaker, he could spend more quality time with her over video calls.

Despite the gloomy and fear-filled atmosphere in the dormitories, Brother Samir personally does not like to partake in negative talk and complaints. He also shared that it has been strange getting through the day since he is used to working long hours all day and have done so for many years. Nonetheless, he expressed his heartfelt appreciation of the care given to him and other migrant workers by the Singapore government.

One day, Brother Samir sent a photo of some oranges on a tray to Sister Madeleine and pointed at a crucifix beside his other gods and idols. Sister Madeleine believes that seeds of faith have been sown in Brother Samir's life!

Sister Madeleine continues to build relationships with Brother Samir and other migrant worker brothers in Singapore. Beyond organising and conducting English lessons for them, she also engages them during various festive occasions such as Hari Raya and Deepavali. She hopes that these migrant worker brothers will come to know that the church loves and cares for them.

As God's work has begun in Brother Samir's life, let us continue to pray that Jesus will prepare his heart to be a fertile ground for the gospel to be sown! Especially at times when all hope seems lost, we believe that the hope we experience in Christ can have the same, transformative effect in the lives of our migrant worker friends.

**Name has been changed to protect the identity of our migrant worker friend.*

Breaking Through **HARD** Ground

*The story of a Grace Missions Church Planter**

BY Jasmin Low, Corporate Communications

Our ministry has never escaped the watchful eyes of our country's authorities. And that is also why we are known as a 'hard ground'. A hard ground for the gospel to be preached freely. Even in this pandemic crisis, religious freedom is still restricted, and our church faces the never-ending challenge of discipling our sheep without getting arrested. When our city went into a lockdown as a result of COVID-19, the religious persecution did not cease entirely. But our Grace Missions country directors tried their best to keep in touch with us. We are grateful to God for them and for how they were finding ways and means to pray with us and provide us with pastoral care.

Every week, our Grace Missions country directors would gather to pray with different groups of us from different cities in the country. We prayed a lot about the COVID-19 situation, but struggled with the movement restrictions implemented by the authorities. Thankfully, none of the church planters in the country contracted the virus and — other than seeing it as a hand of protection from the hands of darkness — we knew, all the more, that we are called to love the lost sheep and disciple followers of Jesus.

During the lockdown, we were greatly encouraged by Psalm 23. The economic downturn that ensued hit most of us. But in these times when we seemingly lack so much, we understand that we shall not be in want, for God is our provider. And we are thankful that the Lord led us to do Business as Missions due to all the restrictions we faced. Through our counselling centre, we are receiving some income. In addition,



having moved to another apartment after the pandemic struck, our rental was also reduced, and we see all these as God's favour and grace.

We have been learning to creatively use online platforms to disciple church members. Through all these efforts, we praise God that, by His grace, believers who were lukewarm are now slowly coming back to Him. Even amid all

these good testimonies, we ask for your prayers because our growing church still seemingly poses a threat to the authorities. Please pray for protection, that we can still run our church online. Prayer, bible study, worship services and cell groups are all conducted online now. We have even ramped up our efforts to reach more people, including those living in other cities.

We have good news as well! Since last year, we have been exploring how our counselling services can be used as a creative platform to win people for Jesus, online and on-site. We believe that such creative means of ministry will soften the ground in our country, for people to see that the followers of Jesus do not just preach, but offer practical love as well.

Already, we are beginning to see some fruits. A brother who has been receiving online therapy came to accept Jesus and is now a disciple! He used to have depression due to family pressures and growing up, believed that his life was worthless as well. However, after a few rounds of counselling, he was touched by the Holy Spirit. On top of that, the love and care he received from the family of God further showed him that God's love can free him from all thoughts that lead to destruction. Now, he lives victoriously in God's love and has his identity and worth deeply rooted in Jesus.

Despite our country being a hard ground, and how the pandemic seemingly makes things worse, I would like to encourage all of us that there is beauty in tough situations. God is still working and He is still touching hearts. While the physical fades away, the spirit lives forever. And just as how Jesus loves, we emulate Him by never giving up on loving, caring, reaching out to the lost and discipling His sheep. We are victors in Christ, and we have triumph over all persecution and pestilence because of the shed blood of Jesus! So, brothers and sisters in Singapore, let us not give up the good fight, but believe that in the darkness, we are carriers of the light that glorifies His name!

* *country not disclosed for confidentiality reasons.*

COVID-19, though a small virus, has brought about a big global change—forcing schools and businesses to close, disrupting the daily routines of millions of people. Like all other countries, Nepal also experienced a gradual lockdown.

On 7 March 2020, the Nepal government announced the necessary precautions against COVID-19, including the maintenance of personal hygiene, staying indoors as much as possible, and refraining from gathering in large crowds. No more than 25 people could gather in one place at the same time. So, for the first time in our church history, our members could not attend physical church services. It was a strange feeling

to see the church compound so quiet and empty on a worship day!

On 24 March 2020, the government announced a full lockdown for a week. Subsequently it was extended. 10 days... 30 days... It has been about five months now. And praise God, though we were in that period of lockdown, but our faith and spirits were not. Right from the first day of our lockdown, churches very quickly mobilised and encouraged their members to pray. We were all confined in our homes, but the prayer movement spread throughout the country.

Our church members started to pray from 7am to 8am and 7pm to 8pm

LOCKDOWN

An update from the Country Director of Nepal

BY Grace Missions Country Director, Nepal and India



“...we are thankful for the micro-enterprise schemes that Grace Missions had initiated earlier. For now, goats, pigs, chicken and fish farming will sustain our pastors.”

every day. This twice-a-day prayer then turned into a 24-hour prayer chain. As we read the reports about the outbreak in the U.S., Italy and other parts of Europe, and the increasing severity of the situation, the more fervent our prayers became. We were particularly fearful that an outbreak of the virus could be disastrous for us in this part of South Asia, where medical facilities are few.

In the cities, churches soon provided online sermons for members and the larger Christian community. We have also started online training for the supported church planters in our region. Of course, some do not own a smartphone or laptop, while others lack Internet access or a stable data connection because they live in rural areas. However, where possible, we are teaching them to use technology to keep in touch with one another. Everyone must learn and acquire new skills to adapt to changing circumstances.

Pastors also face unique challenges now. Before the lockdown, they primarily depended on the regular tithes and offerings of church members for their monthly salary. Now, with no physical church gatherings, there are no tithes and offerings coming in, especially

since we do not have online giving facilities. But we are thankful for the micro-enterprise schemes that Grace Missions had initiated earlier. For now, goats, pigs, chicken and fish farming will sustain our pastors.

The lockdown is affecting everyone in the country. Workers who get by on daily wages suffer the most. The rickshaw riders, roadside stall owners, street sweepers, factory workers, and many others have lost their income. Even the street kids are at risk! Our church members are not exempted from this plight as well, having depleted their food supplies and are struggling to replenish them.

Sonita, a member of our church, owns a small tea shop. Nine months ago, her husband fractured his leg in an accident. Due to complications, he underwent several surgeries. Long hospital stays resulted in hefty medical bills. Although he now stays at home with his family, including his two daughters, he is still unable to walk normally. With the lockdown, the couple also had to close their tea shop, effectively cutting off their only source of income.

Sumaya, another of our church members, lives by herself in a small

dark room beside the stairs of a residence. When one of our church leaders visited her one day, it was discovered that she had been surviving on tea and biscuits for the last three days because the burner of her kerosene stove was faulty. The shops are all closed, and she could not have it repaired. Moreover, she did not have the money for the repairs since she hasn't been able to find work.

COVID-19 has taught all of us to be frugal. Despite the present difficulties, our pastors and members have gone beyond their own personal duties to reach out to their neighbours and community, to provide practical help as much as possible so that all will have food! It has moved us into another realm of compassion and giving, showing acts of kindness in the name and spirit of our Lord.

We believe that God is at work, even when we are isolated from one another. We are undergoing a process like the caterpillar in the cocoon, transforming and waiting to emerge into a beautiful butterfly. Let us be in fervent prayers for one another during this pandemic season. May we all look to Jesus, who is the author and finisher of our faith. Amen!

UNDISRUPTED Training of Gospel Ministers

An update from our Grace Missions Partner from India

BY Grace Missions Partner, India

The purpose of the training centre we are supporting in India is to equip more church leaders. Training was not disrupted during the pandemic. On the contrary, it is growing even stronger! This is primarily due to the dispersed model of training, which is well-suited for persecution and pandemics when people are confined to their homes. Below is a personal update from our Grace Missions Partner from India.

I want to start by sharing good news! Our partnership with Grace Missions has been very fruitful and effective. We are making a real and solid impact at the grassroots level, especially among the Unreached People Groups in North India. The first generation of believers from these groups are being transformed and trained through the intensive training model, using the International School of Ministry (ISOM) curriculum. Many of them are growing stronger in faith through the Word and many of them are getting filled by the baptism of the Holy Spirit. They are also plugging into the local church with high levels of commitment

and going for outreaches to share the Good News. This is awesome and encouraging!

We have a great passion to make a real impact through North India and, right now, we are actively working with over 20 local pioneer churches, including more than 200 students. Several batches have already graduated, and we will continue to expand. It is our vision to have an ISOM centre in all the states of North India. We already have training centres in some locations, and have been able to leverage on technology to spread ISOM quickly and efficiently without compromising on quality and impact.

Now for more good news! Even though India is under lockdown, ISOM continues! We have several ISOM centres that continue to conduct training in small batches. Several were already in process as the lockdown went into effect. However, we pivoted quickly to modify our model to allow the students to study from home. We

call it, 'Guided Home ISOM'. We are training our ISOM pastors and they are implementing it in their local churches. We are using a private YouTube channel to stream the video curriculum and sending the notes in a PDF document so that they can be read on mobile phones. We are also carrying out exams online using Google Forms. With all these, it is completely possible for students who have smartphones, Internet access and electricity to join the 'Guided Home ISOM'.

However, some of our centres in the villages do not have access to these things. Hence, for now, we are focusing on the ISOM centres in urban areas. Pray for us that His wisdom will lead us to also creatively train those in the villages.

All in all, it is amazing and incredible to know that our partnership is still making disciples and training young emerging leaders from Unreached People Groups, even during this pandemic! Praise God! Thank you so much for your partnership in the gospel.

Testimonials for THE UNFINISHED STORY

BY JOY Grace Missional Group

The Unfinished Story uses a variety of learning methods and interactive activities, such as:

- Inspirational teaching videos covering the biblical, historical, strategic and cultural areas of missions in a way that makes missions easily understood.
- Prayer for the least-reached people around the world, as well as those living in our own cities and communities.
- Stimulating interactive discussions where participants share what the Lord is saying to them personally through the material in each session.

Joy GMG consists mainly of home-makers who attended the four sessions of The Unfinished Story on top of their GMG lessons. Among 14 of them are grandmothers. When COVID-19 disrupted physical meetings, they went online every Thursday morning to attend this course. I asked them to pen down what they learned from the course and how this course has impacted them.

– **Pastor Chan Peck Yin**

I have realised that the global church can fulfil the Great Commission through missionary works in foreign lands where followers of Jesus can impart His goodness to the non-religious. By sharing Christ, these indigenous people have a beacon of hope to guide them in times of despair, knowing that salvation is within reach. In order to be more like Christ, I believe in making the first move to share Christianity and being missional.

– **Wendy Foong**

The course gave me greater insight into a missional lifestyle, both culturally and cross-culturally. It's all about reaching out and embracing the 'both/and' cultures. I was able to see that missions can be fulfilled by the Holy Spirit and a willing heart to follow His commands.

Let's pray for God's open opportunity to reach the unreached. Thank you, Lord, for the awakening! In the past, I resented foreign workers for taking away jobs from locals. But through this course, I realised that God brought them here for us to reach them with Christ's love.

– **Lydia Ong**

Very enlightening and inspirational. Throughout the lessons, I see the love and mercy of God to save the nations through the gospel. The death and resurrection of Jesus on the cross has

redeemed us from the penalty of sins and justified us with His own righteousness. Jesus has finished His work of redemption for whoever believes in Him. But there are still billions of people in this world who have not heard the gospel. And God has called us, the redeemed, to bring the gospel to the ends of the world by the power of the Holy Spirit. His hand is moving and directing world events like globalisation and worldwide migration to make the gospel available to all nations anywhere and everywhere. God even makes use of disasters like the COVID-19 pandemic to help the unredeemed call out to Him so that they may be saved. May God help me to live a missional life, and be a partner in bringing the gospel to whoever and wherever He sends me to.

Amen. – **May Doo**

Our gifts and skills are God-given and He wants us to use them for His redemptive purposes. The works of my Heavenly Father are the works I should partake in. If we do not do it, who will? My inspiration is to reach out to unsaved souls.

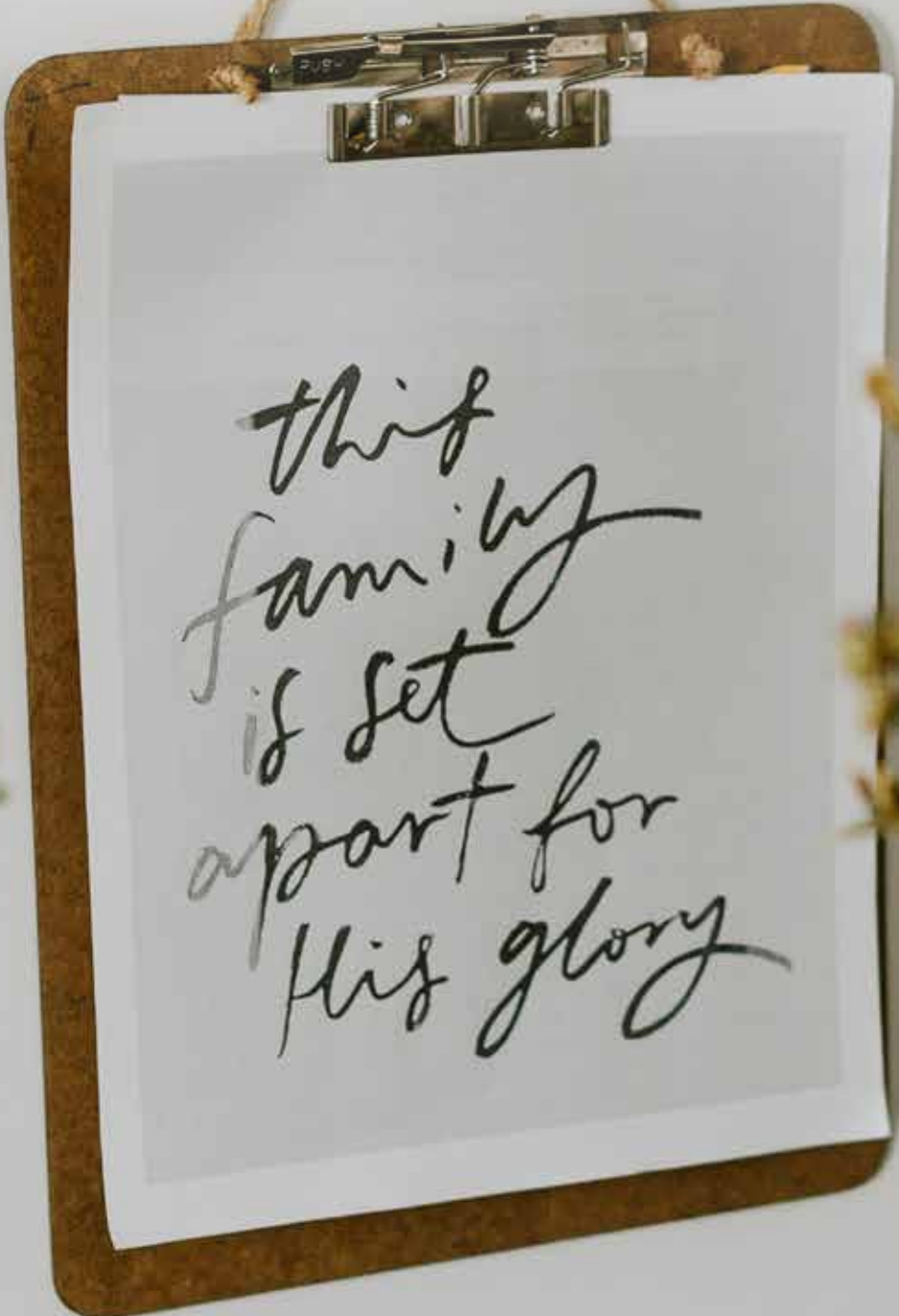
– **Eileen Lim**

In my reflection during one of the sessions, these keywords came to me: Compassion, Mission, Burden and Obedience. The course gave me head knowledge about missions but compassion is needed to fulfil missionary works. Through the course, I have been awakened to go deeper in reading God's Word. In this COVID-19 season, I want to get back to seek His direction and be obedient to reach out to those who need Jesus.

– **Lynette Lau**



Worship from **GENERATION** to **GENERATION**



this
family
is set
apart for
His glory

BY Sim Soo Wei, Head of Grace Kids

How do we as a church pass on our devotion and zeal for the Lord from generation to generation? It is not the work of just one person or a family, but everyone and all families need to work together to fulfill this command of the Lord. From scriptures, we know that it takes a lot of telling, teaching and role modelling to do so.

What other better platform to engage the young than in our families itself? In my family, family altars is about sharing of our lives that are bound by God's values and principles. There are some things we do routinely while a lot of learning is achieved when our children watch our way of life, our interactions with God and His people, and also how we solve our problems and make decisions.

Routinely, every night, we will pray as a family and read a chapter of the bible together. This engages my older child much more than my special kid who is four years old. For him, we use First Things First Devotional Flashcards from the Treasurebox sg. These flashcards work well for him and we teach him to memorise the scriptures by adding actions to the words at times.

My daughter was five-and-a-half years old when we decided to read her a chapter of the bible a day, and with the hope that we can read through it with her for the first round in her life when she reaches eight. Sometimes, when the chapter gets very complex and confusing, we will make use of the plentiful bookmarks we have and turn them instantly into puppet figures and speak animatedly to unfold the story. When I thought I had anchored the devotion well, still my girl would ask questions such as "So is King Ahab good or bad"? But that is the joy of learning together, isn't it? Not giving up, we would then try another way to paraphrase or draw to get the idea across. At the end of the day, I think my husband and I gleaned as much, if not more, from the Word of God than our children. It blesses our hearts as we do devotions together with them.

If you have yet to embark on these beautiful journeys with your family, I strongly encourage you to start today. Let's put Christ in the center of our home and experience church daily.

Together with me in this article, we have the privilege of having Sis Samantha, Head of our Creative Arts Ministry, to share with us the need for church and families to arise to lead our next generation to become worshipful disciples of our Lord Jesus.

BY Samantha Lim,
Head of Creative Arts Ministry

... we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the Lord, his power and the wonders he has done." - Psalm 78:4 (NIV)

The Bible repeatedly highlights the impact that one generation has on the next. The Old Testament gives us a glimpse of God's heart concerning generations: He establishes covenants that remain binding throughout generations (Gen 17:7) and commands the people of Israel to teach His laws to their children (Deuteronomy 4:9, 6:7, 11:19, 32:46). These commands were so that "the next generation would know them, *even the children yet to be born*, and they would in turn tell their children" (Psalm 78:6).

From all these, we see that it is the biblical responsibility of each generation to "commend" God's works to another (Psalm 145:4). The word for "commend" comes from the root word *shabbach* in Hebrew, which means "to praise". One excellent way that we can do this is through the songs we sing in the presence of our children.

Songs have a powerful way of etching themselves in hearts and minds. The words of well-written, gospel-rich songs remain with us in a deeper way when they are sung as opposed to when they are read. I still remember the tunes and words from the songs my parents used to play during our car rides when I was little, and I can even sing them right now: *I have hidden Your word, hidden Your word, hidden Your word in my heart ...!*

Singing God's praise is but one way to commend Him to the next generation. Living out God's ways in our homes is even more powerful. Imagine the power of the daily witness that we could be to our children in our family spaces and routines! As they observe us making God's Word a priority, choosing His ways in our everyday decisions, and ever having praise for God on our lips, I believe that the wonder, majesty of God and a holy passion for Him would be etched deeply in our children's hearts. This too applies to brothers and sisters in our church who are not yet parents. The young ones are looking upon us as a role model; let us teach them well through our ways and not just through our words.

GRACE KIDS FAMILY 1

By Jane and Kenny Loh, parents of Clare (aged 11), Caleb (aged 9) and Christy (aged 7)

Digging into God's words is my priority, so when news of the circuit breaker was announced, I drew up an "ideal" time-table for my three primary schoolers — 7, 9 and 11 years old. I chose for them the Precept Bible Study Kids series, Jesus in the Spotlight, for the Gospel of John. To engage the children, we would play "word search" by finding words related to Jesus, highlighting them and discussing as a family.

All went well during the first week. However, soon I realised that reality did not meet my expectations. The children felt tired and restless during bible study lessons at night and that left me frustrated, not being able to achieve what I had planned. Therefore, I decided to start the day with worship and bible study lessons and end the day with soothing worship songs instead. Amazingly, the transition went smoother and soon they got into the routine of having bible study lessons in the morning.

One of the challenges I faced was the need to select suitable worship songs, videos and words to explain the bible verses to cater to the different learning abilities of my children. Although this took me more time and effort to plan each lesson, I must say it has been worthwhile. The greatest satisfaction as a parent is watching the children grow in the Lord and that joy keeps me going. Proverbs 22:6 "Train up a child in the way he should go: even when he is old, he will not depart from it."

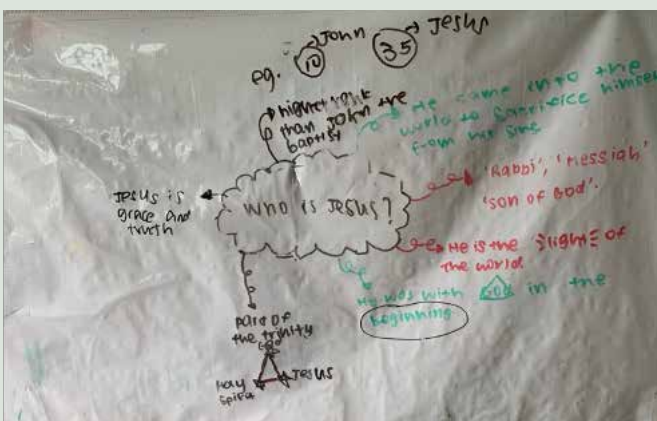
GRACE KIDS FAMILY 2

By Janice Aw, mother of Elyssa (15 years old), Eleanor (13 years old) and Elliott (5 years old)

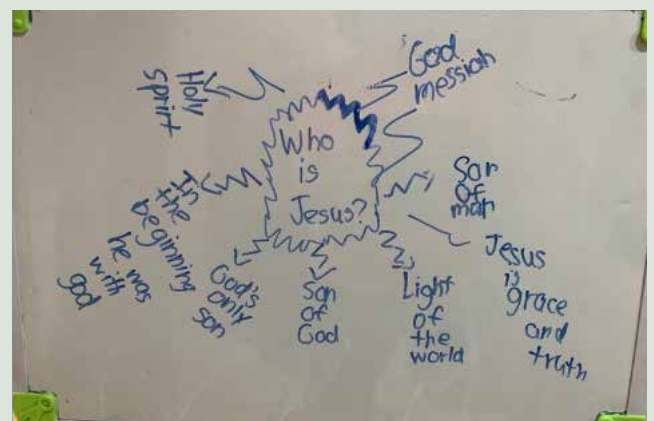
Hello, everyone! We are the Aw family of five. I have three kids aged 15, 13 and 5. Other than our own personal devotions, we will also have our devotions as a family once a week. These usually happen on Sunday evenings after dinner, in the living room. Most of the time, my husband will share the passage and insights from his own devotions. Other times, he will ask the girls to take turns to share something they have learnt from their devotions in the week. We involve our youngest son by letting him read a bible passage or open us with a word of prayer. Every night, I will also read with him from a children's devotional book which runs through the bible chronologically. He is very interested in it and will not sleep unless it is done.

We believe that devotions can take place all the time. Over the past week, we tried having a discussion over dinner and we shared our reflections for the day. We also believe that role modelling by parents is pivotal in our children's spiritual walk. When the children see their parents making a point to set aside time daily for God's Word, they will naturally cultivate the same discipline.

Family devotion times are a great way for us to know how our kids are doing spiritually and it's also a platform for them to clarify any doubts they may have. It is a good "habit" to inculcate from young and it also bonds us closer together as a family.



Devotional notes of Clare (11 years old)



Devotional notes of Caleb (9 years old)



Rachel's artwork from one of the family devotions

GRACE KIDS FAMILY 3

By Sandy Low, mother of Daniel (5 years old) and Rachel (10 years old)

Spending time with God as a family has always been a priority at home. Our family devotion usually happens before bedtime, consisting of bible reading, role-playing of bible stories and singing of worship songs. As my eldest girl, who is 10 years old, likes to ask more thought-provoking questions, my husband will spend time to have more in-depth discussions with her. The devotion ends with my husband praying for the family and the children before they go to bed. We teach them that praying is like talking to God so that they will learn to always go to Him as a counsellor and friend.

In our family, worship can take place at any time and place. Our children love to listen to worship songs and always sing along in the car during car rides. The younger one always surprises me every time he sings the lyrics out loud. We are not particular in the choice of the genre of worship songs. In fact, our children can be our best critics when it comes to choosing songs.

Simple children songs such as "Jesus loves me" can be sung without music or instruments. It is endearing, familiar and touching. I love to hear my children sing. When they sing for God, it really touches my heart.

Family devotions can be simple and short, but it must be deliberate and best if it is part of the family routine. Every devotion time is different; choose to focus on God rather than the structure. We also learn to support one another in prayers.

GRACE KIDS FAMILY 4

By Jermaine and Christine Saw, parents of Saw Junnan (9 years old)

We have a dedicated time to do devotion (family altar) daily. We will start with a simple opening prayer followed by three worship songs. We will pray through our prayer items before ending with a daily bible verse. We will reflect on the verse and discuss what it means to us. During the devotion, we will take time to explain to our son using very simple examples. When we worship, we will deliberately speak in tongues to model for our son what this prayer language is about.

As parents, we do not know everything but we are thankful for the many online commentaries which we can use to help us understand God's Word better, which in turn enable us to teach our son with much clarity.

Personally, I find it far more meaningful to pray and worship in unity as a family. God loves seeing families come together, devoting time and effort in crying out to Him and pouring our hearts out to our One and Only Abba Father. In the past, we never had family devotions. We only attend services on Sunday. With this new habit we inculcate as a family, it really unites us more and helps us fix our eyes on God not just weekly but daily.

Conducting Our **FIRST** GDI Course Online: Grace Baptism and Membership Class *(16 Apr to 7 May)*

BY Pastor Alvin Lim, Grace Discipleship Institute (GDI)

Our on-site Grace Baptism and Membership class was supposed to start on 6 March 2020 but with the onset of COVID-19 hitting our church directly, all classes were postponed or cancelled. When the GDI team (comprising Ps Lee Meng Cham, & Ps Jadene Ng and myself) realised that onsite service and classes were no longer possible in the near future, we had to start thinking of how to conduct these classes online effectively. It was challenging as we had not done this before, and the deadline was tight. We knew that the format had to be different from the old on-site method of lectures of two hours each for four sessions. We prayed as a team to God for Him to guide us. And the Lord answered our prayers!

First, it was the amazing number of sign-ups as we only emailed those that have registered with us previously. Majority of them said yes and we had 73 (46 adults and 27 from NEXUS) sign-ups! It was our biggest combined membership class ever! 43 were getting baptised and 30 were transfer members.

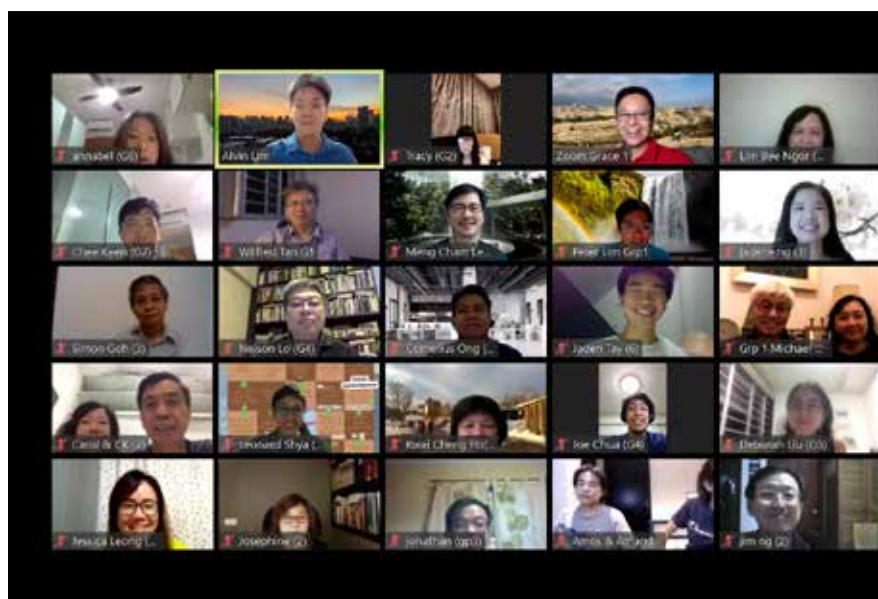
God began to give us timely revelation on how to do this. We could use Zoom to record ourselves teaching and each lesson had to be less than 30 minutes and broken into parts because it was hard to concentrate for too long looking at a screen. They would be given three ways to consume the teaching content in their own private time: video, audio and text to cater to different learning preferences and maturity of the participants.

But how do we ensure that they have understood and applied the teaching content into their lives? We got the participants to submit 4-5 application answers for each lesson every week. This is the first time we were making submission of “homework” compulsory. But how do we get

them to submit their assignments? Via email or google drive? That would be tedious to manage! Lord, help!

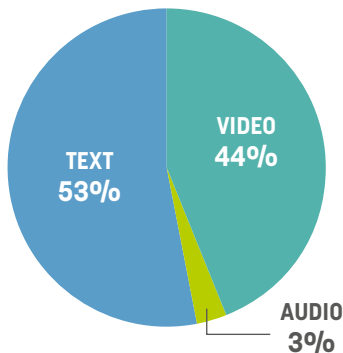
I asked my daughter for help and she introduced me to Google Classroom. Both facilitators and participants did well to learn quickly on how to use this new platform. When they came online every week for one hour each time, facilitators would look at their submissions and focus on facilitating meaningful discussions as they learned from one another in the small group. We had six break-out groups of about 15 pax each. We had to learn how to do break-out rooms in Zoom and there were some digital “bugs” we had to overcome.

When class began on 16 April, we adapted to the new normal of facilitating a small group online but it was not as challenging as we feared. In fact, we soon realised some advantages as well.

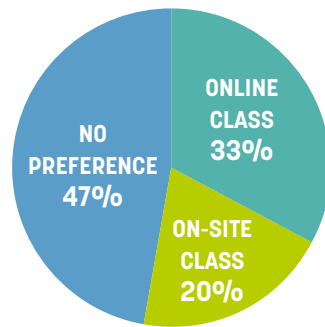


SOME INTERESTING FINDINGS:

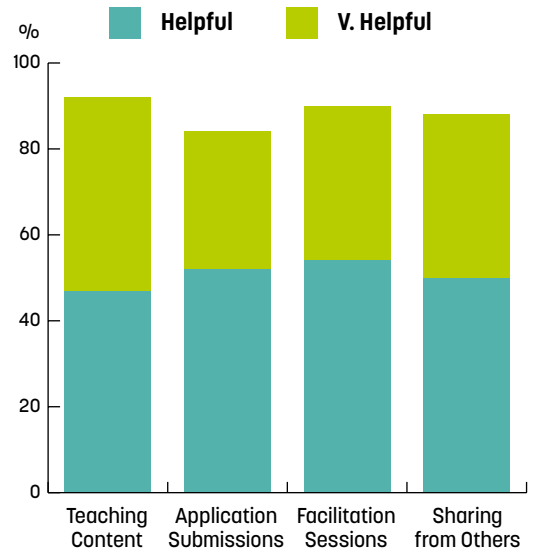
Which medium did you mostly use to understand the content of the lessons?



Which do you prefer?



What is beneficial for your learning and discipleship from the class?



Responses from Facilitators:

Cheong Poh Peng: The advantage of online learning was the convenience. Students had more time to process the content so answers were more thoughtful than in face-to-face setting. We could also see the names of the students.

The cons are that it was less personal and took more work for busy facilitators to look at their submissions. There were also occasional internet disruptions. There was less spontaneity but it improved as students got used to Zoom

Ps Jadene Ng: The pros were that participants have more freedom and learn at their own time. Class interaction promoted personal sharing. The cons were the loss of non-verbal cues, body language etc... unless we looked very intently at everyone. They had shorter attention span as screen-time was more tiring. There was also a need to re-shape materials and give more time to discussions and let participants activate their own learning.

Nelson Lo: I applaud the GDI for doing an awesome job in setting up the lessons. This helped facilitators and students learn at their own pace while soliciting from them appropriate reflection and response through the use of Google Classroom. Throughout the week, we were able to engage the participants via different platforms (email, Whatsapp, Google Classroom) available. This aided in the preparation for the actual weekly online class. I was looking forward to each week's lesson. I was excited for each student and would check the Google Classroom every day to see any submission and pray for each one of them.

One challenge I feel that needs to be constantly addressed is the familiarity with the system used and expanding a variety of teaching and learning platform to keep it from being monotonous.

Ps Peter Lim: The pros were that participants felt more comfortable in their homes, so with proper facilitation, they could be more open to share. A advantage, of course, was that we saved time travelling and it felt like more people were willing to commit to the classes because they were stuck at home any way. The cons were that it was harder to ensure that participants were engaged and learning. It was also harder to read their body language as we could only see their faces. Personally, being at home while conducting the classes made it harder to be energetic and lively in the session. The technology-barrier is more challenging for the elderly students too.

And here's the feedback from some of the participants:

Soh Yuyan: "After attending the Grace Baptism and Membership Online Class, I have been very encouraged by sharing from other people. It helps to remind us that we are still learning to become more like Jesus, but we are not alone in this journey. I am thankful that we are able to dedicate time for the class as well as to share openly. The videos recorded by the leaders were also very helpful for learning the basics of living life as a Christian."

Anna Tan: "I was blessed by the weekly sharing in small breakout groups! Everyone's understanding of the lessons is different so when we came together to share, it was always very insightful and refreshing! It also shows me that God speaks intimately to each of us."

Let's welcome these 73 brothers and sisters who are going to be members of our Grace Assembly family really soon. There are 43 of them who will be baptised when we eventually resume on-site activities before becoming members.

The next Grace Baptism and Membership online class will start on 3 Sep.
Registration opens on 3 Aug.
Check out
<https://www.graceaog.org/gdi/>
for more details.

GRACE MISSIONAL COLLEGE:

The Book of **HEBREWS**

BY Pastor Alvin Lim, Grace Discipleship Institute (GDI)

Dr Jerry Horner was supposed to teach on the Book of Hebrews in October 2019 at Grace Assembly, but the class had to be cancelled as he was hospitalised the day before it started. Thankfully, God made a way through the COVID-19 situation as all discipleship classes moved online. Dr Jerry did not need to travel 21 gruelling hours from Atlanta, USA, but could teach us from the comfort of his own home.

Held from 18 to 20 June this year, the online class had a good response of 45 students with 10 credit students. The format of the class changed to include 25 per cent of small group discussions and application instead of just lectures. 54 per cent of the class preferred online classes, 40 per cent had no preference, and only 6 per cent preferred on-site classes. It looks like online classes are more convenient and the way to go in this new normal. Dr Jerry enjoyed teaching the class and thanked us for making it possible.



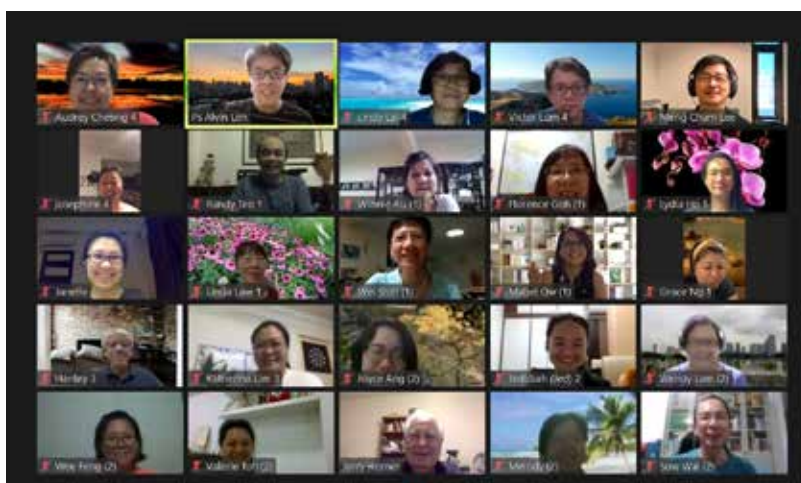
Here are responses from some of our participants:

“The study of Hebrews was a good, firm reminder of the superiority of the new covenant and Christ’s priesthood. It was also great to hear from other Gracians and listen to their faith testimonies.”— **John Low Zhong Heng**

“It’s a privilege to be learning from Dr Jerry. There is a sea of knowledge that we gleaned from this class over the past few days. Appreciate that he took time to answer the students’ questions carefully and provided context and analogies to aid our understanding.”— **Joyce Ang**

“I am not a Bible scholar, but the experience of going through what a Bible student learns inspires me to pursue more revelation from God’s Word.”— **Sherene Sng**

“This course shed light on the priesthood of Jesus and the essence of faith in God. It encourages and spurs me on to continue deepening my fellowship with God and to live for Him.”
— **Chelsea Leong**



TOP: Dr Jerry Horner conducting the GMC course online.

BOTTOM: Participants attending The Book of Hebrews online.

Grace Discipleship Institute (GDI)

From Christian basics to courses that feed you beyond spiritual milk, scan the QR code to find out more about the upcoming discipleship courses that you can sign up for, to strengthen your spiritual walk with God!



<https://www.graceaog.org/gdi/>

Men's Bible Study - Book of Matthew

DATE / TIME: 8 Aug - 7 Nov, Saturdays (11 sessions) / 9 - 10 am

New Believer's Course : Growing in Christ

DATE / TIME: 11 Aug to 15 Sep, Tuesdays (6 sessions) / 10 - 11 am

Grace Baptism & Membership Classes

DATE / TIME: 27 Aug to 24 Sep, Thursdays (5 sessions) / 8 - 9 pm

Book of Jeremiah by Rabbi Baruch Korman

DATE / TIME: 2 - 4 Sep 2020, Wed-Fri / 7 - 10 pm

Restored to Wholeness

DATE / TIME: 4 Sep / 7 - 9 pm • 5 Sep / 10 am - 12 pm • 6 Sep / 2 - 4 pm

Kairos

DATE / TIME: 13 Sep - 8 Nov, Sundays (9 sessions) / 2 - 4 pm

Lordship of Christ

DATE / TIME: 1 - 22 Oct, Thursdays (4 sessions) / 8 - 9:30 pm

Finance, God's Way by James Sim

DATE / TIME: 15 - 16 Oct, Thur-Fri / 7-10 pm • 17 Oct, Sat / 9am - 1pm

To sign up for the above courses:

Registration will open **ONE MONTH** before commencement date.

Deadline: Registration will close **ONE WEEK** prior to commencement date.

Register at <https://event.graceaog.org>



For queries, please email to gdi@graceaog.org or call 64100800 during office hours.



ZOOMING in to J333 – prayer is the greater work

BY Pastor Joey Asher Tan, Head of Nexus, and J333 Taskforce

When the J333 Taskforce was assembled, ideas for an online prayer movement were downloaded at 5G speeds. Nine of us from eight departments were aligned to the same vision — to mobilise more Gracians to pray, inspire Gracians to pray more and equip Gracians to lead prayer meetings.

For a long time, we had been trying to get Gracians to pray together once every fortnight. What we tried to do for years, God accomplished it in days; now many Gracians are praying together every evening. We currently are well into the second wave of J333 Online — a 70-day prayer movement that ends on National Day. The first wave that lasted 50 days from Resurrection to Pentecost Sunday peaked at over 300 participants and saw an average of 150-250 participants logging in every night.

We structured J333 Online to be sustained by Gracians, that this top-down pastoral initiative eventually becomes a ground-up Gracian movement. Gracians from every single congregation have gotten involved, with a singular desire to magnify God and edify each other through prayer. Despite fixing the language used to facilitate each session—English and Mandarin on the odd and days of the week, respectively—it is uniquely Gracian that in each J333, we hear every (mother) tongue confess that Jesus is Lord. Hallelujah!

The **J333 Standard** is only 33 minutes because we believe that short and regular conversations with God is healthier than long and infrequent ones. You'll be surprised at how much can be covered in that duration. Another feature of J333 Online is that we scribe it. We desire to record what God reveals to us when we call unto Him (Jeremiah 33:3), so that we can see the bigger picture that God is unfolding for Grace Assembly.

Besides **J333 Standard**, the J333 Taskforce has also launched four variations of J333 Online. Happening on Wednesdays and Saturdays, **J333 Soak** is an extended prayer meeting (lasting 60 minutes) that enables us to tarry in prayer. On

Sundays, **J333 Special** is a 45-minute prayer meeting that spotlights and focuses on praying for a non-congregational ministry. At lunchtime on every Wednesday in July, **J333 Selah** is a 33-minute prayer meeting designed specifically

Gracians from every single congregation have gotten involved, with a singular desire to magnify God and edify each other through prayer.

for those in the marketplace to take a midday pause to hear and pray through a devotional thought on being in the workforce. The most recently launched **J333 Supernatural** (on every first and third Saturday), hosted by the Healing Room Ministry, is a 45-minute prayer meeting that provides an opportunity for Gracians to experience and witness God's healing power upon His people.

We want to invite you to volunteer and serve. The more Gracians are involved, the better we can sustain the J333 Online. Whether it is to coordinate a session, scribe it, song lead or prayer lead, please approach your regional pastors to get involved. You may also submit prayer requests, testify of prayers answered and encourage someone in the church. These online submissions will be featured in our 'Wall of Faith'. To find out more, visit <https://www.graceao.org/pray/>. You can make a difference in Grace Assembly's prayer climate.

Every J333 is anchored on Scripture, weaved together by worship, and fuelled by the prayers of Gracians. In closing, and I will borrow Oswald Chamber's words, "Prayer does not fit us for the greater work [because] prayer is the greater work." See you later at 8pm!

TESTIMONIES — BLESSED TO BE A PART OF J333

I am blessed by J333 Online! We pray together as one body, regardless the language or the services we attend. J333 gathers us altogether, and I really feel belonged to Grace Assembly as one big family. I can also see how powerful God is when His presence moves through different pastors-in-charge. The convenience to join in prayer makes me look forward to it every night. That day, my son remarked, “Wow mummy, you attend both English and Mandarin J333, very good hor.” I told him that as Christians, praying is like breathing. I motivate my children to pray more often as they see their parent being eager about praying. — **Linda Chua**

I have been faithfully attending our church's J333 online prayer meeting as I believe that corporate prayer is as important as personal prayer. My personal prayer life is also revived after attending J333. I am spiritually charged up and my spirit is uplifted every night after J333. Praying together enlarges my vision. It moves me from seeking my own purpose to desiring God's purpose. I also learn how to pray from others. J333 forges togetherness, agreement and affirmation. As we pray together united as one church, crying out and seeking God, I can sense the presence and anointing of God. Thus I prepare my mind and heart, with anticipation to meet God and encounter His presence at the online J333 at 8pm every night. — **Sharon Tan**

The J333 daily online prayer meetings have really been a blessing and encouragement to me. It has reminded me again that as long as our heart's posture is looking up to God, nothing can silence His children's cries to their Heavenly Father. We may be physically disconnected but are still virtually connected. We may be temporarily locked in but our hearts are always free to reach out. The world may now be on pause but God's plans are forever still in play. May this season of seeking God draw us closer to His heart and purposes. Amen! — **Andrew Yeoh**

I had decided to make a commitment to attend J333 at Grace@Tanglin in January 2020. However, an injury and COVID-19 put a stop to this. Thus when online J333 started, I knew God remembered. It was only after a few times that I realised it was the presence of God as we assembled to pray that I was looking forward to at 8pm. I can sense the sweet presence of God with me in my home as we zoomed in as one body at J333. These 33 minutes became a special time of encouragement and blessing for me. I was able to close my day with Jesus.

— **Isabella Ivy Chong**

I remembered in 2013 during one of my prayer time with God, He gave me this verse, “And I myself will be a wall of fire around it, declares the Lord and I will be its glory within” (Zechariah 2:4-5). I am seeing this vision coming to pass with the daily online J333 initiative. As we fellow Gracians, come together to pray corporately from our homes, in the different regions we are residing in, there is a collective fire ignited by the Holy Spirit in each of our hearts. This is what inspires and spurs me on to pray because I desire to see this wall of fire being built so that God's glory will be prevailed in our lives, church and nation. — **Mylene Lee**

感谢主的恩典，在这个疫情的阻断措施月或不能回教会崇拜和其他的服侍，教会给我们这个非常方便的平台来回应我们的上帝。这个就是我们的流动教会。经过两个星期J333，我可以看见好久不见的恩友和牧者。虽然是短短的30多分钟，我可以感受到众弟兄姐妹一起团结合一的一起来祷告和赞美我们的上帝的精神！

就像独乐乐不如众乐乐。我们都每天已经自己祷告了，所以2、4、6，半个钟头一起来祷告和赞美是非常好的。因为，如果没有这个疫情，我们好多住武吉巴督的有时好难去东林参加J333，尤其是年长者（也包括我）。所以现在真的很方便，我在做工，7.55pm我就停下车开我的平台就上线了。也开心能看到好多年长者也会上线。

牧者也用心良苦的主持人也带领我们为什么事物来祷告。所以我们可以从中学习。这个J333，不但可以让我们属灵成长也更亲静神和更有力量在我们的平常生活和工作。 — **符致煌弟兄**





Keep WORSHIPPING, Even as the Keys Change

BY Samantha Loh

By now, we have all experienced how the COVID-19 pandemic has completely changed the routines of our lives. The church has had to go digital and, more importantly, it must learn to remain a voice of hope in such challenging times.

As Grace Assembly goes online with its services and meetings, it is amazing to see how we have risen to meet any challenges head on, even if it means adopting new methods or acquiring new skills and equipment. The worship ministries have experienced a steep learning curve in preparing and recording the worship segments for our online services in their homes—all while balancing their work, family, children and household responsibilities.

Yet, we are so encouraged by how they remain upbeat in such stressful situations. “I was surprised by how everyone remained keen to serve, even if they lacked some kind of recording equipment at home,” shares Samantha Lim, Head of Creative Arts Ministry. “But God always provides, because more people than we expected actually had some form of equipment, like lights, microphone stands or camera tripods, etc. Of course, we miss the communal aspect of being physically together to serve, but we’re also bonding over the difficulties of recording many ‘takes’ for just one segment!” Pastor Rosita Cristobal from the Filipino Ministry agrees and adds, “It’s a new experience coordinating the recording of worship sessions across the screens with no visible leader, but that has helped us improve our communication as a team as well.”

The church staff also noted how the shift to recording from home has deepened their understanding of what it means to worship for an audience of one—our God. “We must remember that God alone is the only worthy audience of our worship,” stresses Pastor Rosita. While we may not be able to worship at our spiritual home (in the physical church building), this season is a good reminder that our worship actually begins at home. “This is not the time to stand down,” emphasises Samantha. “There is a power in our praise to break through our circumstances.” Pastor Jasvin Ng from the Chinese Ministry concurs and says, “The Father is always looking for worshippers in spirit and truth. Let this be a season of awakening of all believers to that.”

YAYP's **FIRST** Online Campus Camp

By Pastor Rebecca Yong, YAYP Campus Ministry

YAYP Campus held their first online campus camp, Camp X, over two days on 25 June and 2 July, in the midst of the global pandemic. 85 students from different varsities gathered online for a time of bonding and equipping to be His witnesses wherever God takes them. More than 30 freshmen joined the camp in preparation for their new phase in life.

The theme of Camp X was taken from Acts 1:8. It drew encouragement from the Book of Acts, spurring every student to see their campus as their missions field, as well as to share the good news of love and hope with their friends by the power of His Spirit.



Sharing by Winna Tan, Camp X participant

I attended my very first online campus camp with my fellow university students! The camp was packed with spirit-filled speakers and fun energisers who brought us together as one campus community.

On the first day, we heard an inspiring word by Pastor Patrick Tan from ICS Church Manila, on the importance of moving in the power of the Holy Spirit in university. He set the tone for the rest of the camp by exemplifying what it means to be a disciple of Christ on campus. We then heard from four seniors in a panel discussion where they imparted wise words of advice on navigating through university life.

On the second day, we had a workshop that taught us how we can share our faith with others. The speaker shared many practical tips, which made sharing our faith seem less daunting. I also attended a workshop on how I can serve God with my major. I was convicted that, whatever my major may be, God has a destiny for me and I can surrender all that I have to Him to use for His glory.

I gleaned much from Camp X and am excited to see how God is going to use us all in our campuses to shine His light!



RECRUITMENT

Grace Assembly is seeking qualified candidates for the following FULL-TIME positions.

Interested candidates are invited to submit a comprehensive resume stating qualifications, experience, expected salary and contact details to hr@graceag.org by 31 August 2020. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

HUMAN RESOURCE MANAGER

About the job

Your responsibilities include managing human resource policies and procedures, handling employee-related issues and conducting human resource activities such as compensation and benefits, payroll administration, claims, recruitment, employee relations, performance management, training and development.

Pre-requisites

- Possess good written and verbal communications.
- Prepared to work under pressure, be time-conscious, meet deadlines and changing priorities.
- Ensure confidentiality of highly sensitive information.
- Demonstrate team management skills.
- Able to build and effectively manage inter-personal relationships at all levels.
- Highly motivated team player with a positive attitude and mindset.
- Well-organised, meticulous and attentive to details.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum Degree in Human Resources
- At least 5 years of relevant experience.
- Possess good knowledge of the Singapore Employment Act and the HR best practices

MINISTRY SUPPORT STAFF (NEXUS)

About the job

The primary responsibility includes providing administrative support to the operations of NEXUS which comprises Children, Youth and Young Adults ministries. The duties broadly relate to the organisation, communication, and information management, as well as events co-ordination.

Pre-requisites

- Possess good written and verbal communication.
- Prepared to work under pressure, be time-conscious, and meet deadlines.
- Demonstrate team management skill.

- Able to build and effectively manage inter-personal relationships at all levels.
- Highly-motivated team player with a positive attitude and mindset.
- Well-organised, meticulous and attentive to details.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum Diploma, preferably in Administration or Business Studies.
- At least 3 years of relevant experience.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS EXECUTIVE

About the job

You will be part of a dynamic team to develop and implement effective publicity and communications strategies and collaterals that are aligned with the church's goals and objectives to engage internal and external stakeholders to keep them abreast of the happenings in church. You will work cross-functionally and with volunteers on content curation for all platforms, including crafting internal and external communications materials such as messaging guidelines, articles for the church magazine, content for social media and website, as well as engaging in media and public relations. Your primary role will also include safeguarding the corporate branding and identity of the church, as well as pre-empt and mitigate issues and crises.

Pre-requisites

- Possess strong verbal and written communication skills including editing and proofreading skills.
- Proficient in English and Chinese (written and spoken)
- Independent, resourceful, and meticulous team player with a positive mindset
- Possess sound analytical, organisational and planning skills.
- Possess a wide degree of creativity, and passion for innovative ideas.
- Possess reasonable knowledge and understanding of current trends in digital/social media.
- Able to build and effectively manage interpersonal relationships at all levels.
- Able to multi-task and handle multiple projects effectively and thrive under pressure and tight deadlines.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum diploma in Mass Communication, Journalism or related field.
- Minimum 2 years' experience in a similar position.
- Operational knowledge of Adobe Creative Cloud and HTML will be a plus.

AV EXECUTIVE / SPECIALIST

About the Job

You will:

- Co-ordinate, facilitate, oversee the operation and upgrading of AVL for events & productions;
- Liaise between the Technical Director and the different technical ministries for the purpose of directing operations to achieve event/production objectives specified by the Producer (Operations/Events);
- Facilitate in training and development to increase/improve technical volunteers' capabilities;
- Be involved in AVL design and implementation

Pre-requisites

- Understanding of industry practices and work processes
- Good understanding of digital concepts/operations
- Strong customer service with good interpersonal and communication skills
- Ability to multi-task and manage multiple projects effectively and thrive under tight deadlines.
- Motivated team player with positive attitude and able to work in fast-paced, dynamic environment

Qualifications/Requirements

- Minimum Diploma in Film, Sound & Video, Mass Communications or related disciplines.
- Minimum 2 years relevant experience in a production house or events company
- Well-versed with Dante infrastructure
- Ability to direct live switching is a plus
- Proficient in both English and Mandarin
- Possess a Class 3 licence, preferably
- Those who can start immediately would be preferred

PRODUCTION MANAGER

About the Job

You will be assisting the Assistant Producer in the following areas:

- Co-ordinate, facilitate, oversee the preparation and smooth running of events & productions;
- Liaise between the Assistant Producer and the different ministries for the purpose of direct operations to achieve event/production objectives specified by the Producer (Operations/Events);
- Develop processes to increase/improve production team and volunteers' efficiency

Pre-requisites

- Understanding of industry practices and work processes
- Ability to undertake productions planning, event and process management
- Motivated, self-initiated team player with positive attitude and able to work in fast-paced, dynamic environment.
- Creative, design-focused, systematic and analytical
- Customer-centric with good inter-personal communication skills
- Resourceful, people-oriented and results-driven
- Ability to multi-task and manage multiple projects effectively and thrive under tight deadlines.

Qualifications/Requirements

- Fresh graduates are welcome
- Possess Diploma in Film, Sound & Video, Mass Communications or related discipline
- Fluent in English and Mandarin (spoken and written)
- Knowledge in Adobe Creative Cloud will be an advantage
- Basic design & editing skills



2020-2021
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GOING ONLINE: GMGs share their experiences

BY Pastor Larry Lee, Head of Grace Missional Communities



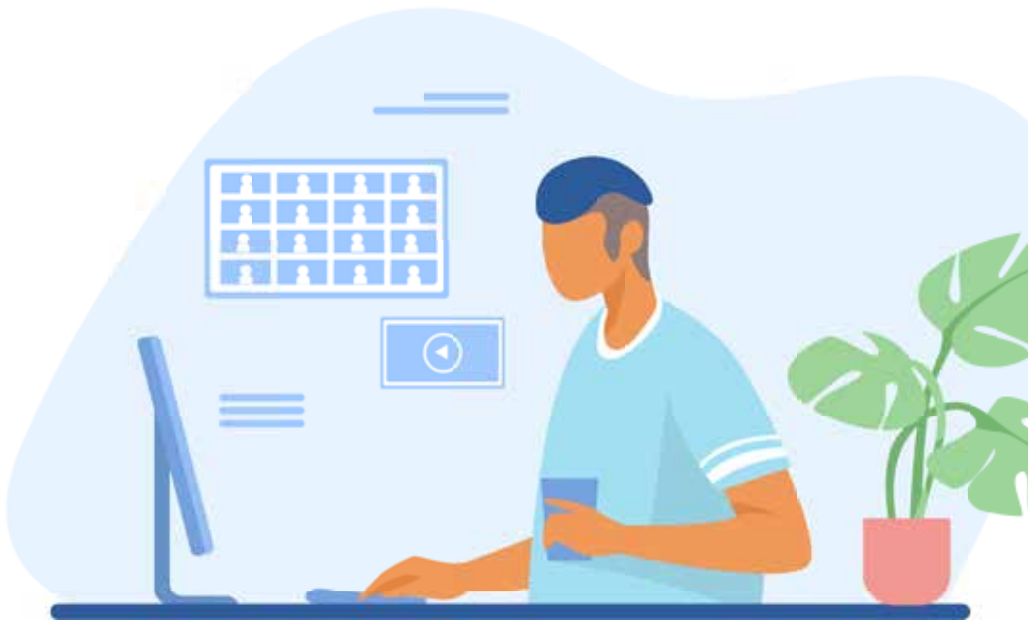
Pastor Larry conducting online training.

When the circuit breaker began, the church's immediate task was to ensure that group leaders (GLs) of Grace Missional Groups (GMGs) could continue to connect with their members online, via digital technology. Our Regional Pastors (RPs) also provided strong leadership and encouragement to get the GMGs to meet online.

For technologically savvy GLs, setting up online meetings was an easy task, and so they initiated this quickly. However, the less savvy ones found it challenging and a steep learning curve. Thankfully, the former came forward to guide and train the latter in setting up Zoom meetings. They were patient with their fellow leaders because online meetings were the best way to connect people in light of the government's restrictions on physical meet-ups.

At first, GMG members were not used to online meetings and preferred face-to-face interactions. But the majority of our GMGs—more than 64%—now meet online regularly. For some GMGs,





members who used to attend irregularly started to attend more regularly. Some GMGs even go beyond their weekly Zoom sessions to organise additional, virtual sessions to catch up and pray further.

For members whose livelihoods have been affected by the pandemic, GMGs can be a place of encouragement and comfort where they are ministered to by the community and strengthened in faith through discussions on the sermon series. A member from a Region D GMG recently shared a testimony about God's favour upon him during this crisis. He was hired as a management level staff instead of the security officer role that he applied for. He also received a good starting salary—more than what he asked for. (*Read Vincent Teo's testimony on Page 34*) Such testimonies are an important source of encouragement of God's grace and love for us during this uncertain time.

For GMGs with more senior members, our RPs and Regional Leaders (RLs) continue to connect with them via simpler platforms such as WhatsApp. Our leaders are working in different ways to invite non-regular members to join their GMGs through WhatsApp messages and acts of grace. I appreciate our RLs and GLs for leading the way in these unprecedented times.

Initially, we thought that we would be able to return to physical meetings soon. So we carried out a leaders' survey about the readiness to resume physical meetings. The survey results were very encouraging as there was a good percentage of GLs who would consider resuming physical meetings as long the church leadership gave their approval. These GLs are also

equipped to take the precautionary social distancing and hygiene measures in a home setting. So the RPs started to work out the precautionary measures for hosting GMGs in homes, and how to be especially considerate of hosts with elderly parents and young children living with them.

However, as the number of Covid-19 infected cases continued to rise, and the government rolled out further plans to contain community transmissions, we realised that it may take a longer time before we can resume any form of physical meeting.

So we continued to rally our GLs to keep meeting online. Our RPs and RLs also join the different GMGs' meetings occasionally to encourage the members and provide pastoral care.

In May, our lay leaders conducted a lesson on hosting online meetings using Zoom. Close to 150 RLs, GLs, AGLs and core group members attended the session. Those who were new to Zoom found the session very helpful, while those who are already familiar with the platform appreciated the additional tips. Another 130 attended the L.I.G.H.T. facilitation skills for GMG organised by GDI-GMG. The training was very well-received as the participants were able to identify the

“Dos and Don'ts” in facilitating online discussions. Together, they watched a recorded video of a role-played online meeting and had a breakout session to discuss it. There were different take-aways to help our leaders to be better facilitators in their GMG meetings.

On 23 May, we held our first Regional Leaders' online training. We officially appointed eight new regional leaders and dedicated them to the Lord. Even though our GMGs are making adjustments in meeting online, we praise God that our members continue to step into leadership roles to strengthen and expand our leadership base.

Online meetings are convenient because members do not need to travel from one place to another. Hence, it's a good way to invite any pre-believing friends who may be keen to join. The response has been good, and one GMG from Region C even went further by conducting an online baking session for pre-believers. However, they cannot totally replace physical interaction. The Covid-19 outbreak has prompted members to rethink what church is and how GMGs play an important role in disciple-making as well as connecting members and friends.

NEW Wineskins for 'Winter'

BY Pastor Peter Lim, Regional Pastor, Region A

The Alaskan wood frog is one of the most adaptable creatures on earth. In sub-zero wintry climates, its body freezes solid – where even their breathing and heartbeat stop. To do that, it builds up high concentrations of glucose in its organs and tissues, which act as “cryoprotectants”, preventing its cells from dying. In spring, they thaw out and come back to life!

In this extraordinary season of change, adaptability is key to not only survive but also to thrive.

Mark 2:22 says: “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.” The new wine is what God wants to pour out so that we can thrive, even in the toughest conditions. However, the wineskin – our hearts – need to change first.

The Grace Missional Communities ministry is a crucial platform for developing missional disciples. It is in our Grace Missional Groups (GMGs) where Gracians experience biblical community and grow in Christ-likeness. Therefore, GMG gatherings must go on even during the ‘wintry’ circuit breaker period but the challenges are formidable.

The first challenge lies in our thinking. As a regional pastor, the first thing I have to do is change my own paradigm. God dealt with that early on when the entire staff team was quarantined due to the COVID-19 cluster forming in Grace

Assembly. It came as a rude shock and so in times of reflection and prayer, God made it clear to me that I need to think differently and not stubbornly keep trying to restore ‘normalcy’ to my life.

After that, I had to help the leaders that I am working with catch this paradigm shift. Life as a GMG is not going to be the same as before and the sooner we accepted that, the better we will be in adapting to the disruptions. Senior Pastor Wilson had put it across succinctly: “We need to stop asking the ‘when’ question (when will physical services and gatherings resume?) but move on to the ‘what’ question (what is God doing?).” Indeed, in such ‘frozen’ conditions, the wisest choice is not to hold on to our old patterns of thinking, but to ‘let it go’!

Another challenge had to do with technology. Suddenly, everything depended on it. All of us had no choice but to adopt new technology – downloading new apps, buying new gadgets, wrestling with new cyber challenges. Elderly Gracians faced particular difficulty with

this one. Many of our leaders had to guide them, step-by-step, on how to use Zoom or other video conferencing platforms. Some could not hear or be heard during online GMG meetings. Some were kept out of such meetings due to weak connectivity or wrong passwords. Personally, I experienced all that too. Strangely, Zoom became one of my most-used app on my devices and I had to purchase some equipment that I never thought I would need!

With all that change in the mode of ministry comes a need to adjust our technique in doing ministry. Holding GMG meetings online was a whole new ball game – dynamics, rules of engagement, and optimal conditions are all different. Leaders had to learn new techniques in facilitating Bible lessons and preparation time was longer than before. Several training sessions were conducted to help different ones adjust their methodology in conducting GMG sessions. All these, coupled with other pressures faced during the circuit breaker period, led many to encounter ‘Zoom fatigue’.





1. New webcam, headset with microphone, and printer that I had to purchase recently.
2. Upper Changi GMG is now meeting daily, in small groups, to pray together.

However, Gracians valiantly rose up to the challenge and gradually adapted to the new climate, putting on the new wineskin. Thankfully, we did not need to remain 'frozen' and motionless like the Alaskan wood frog in winter. Instead, amazingly, God strengthened many areas of our corporate spiritual life that we could not achieve in many years of ministry!

Perhaps the most astounding blessing we see is how new routines have been established. Many GMGs are now meeting more frequently than before: many who used to meet fortnightly, now meet weekly, many who used to meet weekly, now meet twice a week, and some are even meeting daily! It looks like Gracians have adjusted to sharing their lives through the screen, and I have personally witnessed some opening their hearts so transparently that tears are shed. Love, support, and encouragement are expressed through

generous deliveries of food, flowers, and bubble tea! In addition, about 1,000 members are engaged in the daily devotionals and another 150 (averagely) in the daily online J333 prayer meetings.

I am also very moved when I see many new leaders being raised even when we cannot meet physically. Several Regional Leaders, GMG Leaders and Assistant GMG Leaders have answered God's call to take on these crucial roles over the past couple of months. It is clear that God is moving in the hearts of His people even when the pastors are confined at home!

For the first time, we are also seeing lay-people taking the main lead-role in church-wide prayer meetings – Hallelujah! My prayer has always been, "God, this is Your church, Your ministries and Your people, needing leadership. You call them, inspire them, and empower them to lead!"

Lastly, we are also seeing new people being added to the GMGs. At first, many of us pastors were cautious of adding new members into the GMGs because they cannot even introduce themselves physically. However, we received numerous requests to join GMGs and found that many could fit in easily and subsequently they became regular members!

Surely, Grace Assembly is not immobilised in this difficult season. The Church of Jesus Christ advances, unstoppable, because our Captain is victorious over every enemy. When the 'winter' of COVID-19 is over, we will emerge revived, rejuvenated and revitalised. He is pouring His new wine into new wineskins – so let us be ready to catch the wave of the Holy Spirit as it comes!

“We need to stop asking the ‘when’ question (when will physical services and gatherings resume?) but move on to the ‘what’ question (what is God doing?).”
- Senior Pastor Wilson

Gracians' Testimonies of God's **GOODNESS**

Testimony from Vincent Teo

Sembawang/Woodlands GMG, Region D

This is a testimony of God's favour.

Last year, while taking a 6-month sabbatical break, I experienced a miracle. My adopted son, who was stateless in Malaysia, was granted citizenship in Singapore.

After that miracle, I asked the Lord for direction. Even though I desired to work in a church, I was open to God's leading. In February 2020, I had over 300 Facebook friends but after my prayer to God, I had an influx of foreign workers sending me friend requests on Facebook. To date I have more than 1,600 Facebook friends and still counting! Immediately, I knew that the Lord was directing me back to my previous company, and to work in a shipyard. Without further hesitation, I made enquiries for the position of a security officer.

On 5 March, I applied for a position but there was no response even though I was strongly recommended by a HR staff.

On 13 April, another HR staff asked whether I was still looking for a job and I replied that I was. Praise God that I finally signed my contract and commenced work at the lodge on 28 April.

I experienced God's favour in so many ways:

1. Instead of being a security officer, I am now a HR management staff.
2. I asked for a salary that was \$400 more than my last drawn basic pay but instead of negotiating for a lower basic pay, the company offered me \$300 more than what I asked for.
3. As a management staff, I do not have to wear any uniform or overalls.
4. My grade of work is now E4!

God is so good and He is worthy to be praised!



Testimony from CCK Hope, Region D

CCK Hope, a GMG comprising seven couples. On 20 March 2020, we embarked on a new journey, that was unlike many others that we have encountered. As COVID-19 plagued our country, we were forced to move our fortnightly physical cell meetings online to a new platform – Zoom.

Unsure of what was in store for us, we stepped uneasily into this whole new territory. With our minds full of worries such as: Would everyone be Internet savvy enough to navigate through this technological world? We were worried as face-to-face meetings allowed for more engagement with the members, in-depth sharing and time for prayers. Thankfully, the amount of preparation work our leader, Aw Yong, put in was still the same.

However, we were pleasantly surprised. Having our meetings online allowed for our timings to be more flexible and there were fewer logistics involved too.

We had no need for a host to prepare his or her house and neither did we need for a “makan” team to prepare the food. In addition, there were more members joining us for our meetings! Last month, we had two new members joining us as we embarked on this journey together.

But alas, no journey is a smooth one too. We met with problems such as time constraints. A free Zoom meeting only allows us 40 minutes of meeting time. This is a far cry from our usual two-hour meetings. But for every problem encountered, there is always a solution. We plan to switch to Skype for our next cell meeting as Skype allows us to have unlimited meeting time.

Despite the minor issues that we faced, we are still tremendously grateful for what technology has provided us with. Without it, we would be unable to meet each other anymore. This will be the new norm for the time being. Even though it is different from what we are usually accustomed to, let us adapt and use this platform to continue our walk with God and grow as His children.

A Quiet Spirit by Jose Tan

YAYP Campus Ministry

“Martha, Martha,” the Lord answered, “you are worried and upset about many things, but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her.” Luke 10:41–42

I vividly remember witnessing the announcement of the circuit breaker on live television. In the immediate aftermath, I felt distraught and lost. I had many plans and goals to accomplish before I entered university this year, and this circuit breaker just pressed a “stop” button to everything.

As I was praying about this circuit breaker, I thought about this question: “What is the best thing that God would want to come out of this circuit breaker?” I was confined to my home, but I was not shut in with nothing to do. I was shut in with the Lord. I had so much more time to quieten myself down and focus on communing with God daily.

I felt reminded to re-prioritise how I was spending my time. What is truly important? What matters for eternity? Martha was doing a good thing, serving the Lord and the disciples. However, her busyness caused her to feel anger, frustration and worry. Her busyness distracted her from the one thing that was most needful, and that is to receive from the Lord. Time must be set aside to slow down and listen to the Lord’s voice.

“How sweet are Your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”
Psalms 119:103

During this circuit breaker period, my appreciation of God’s Word has grown tremendously! My current goal is to finish the Old Testament, and the more I immerse myself in the living Word, the more I discover how precious, enjoyable and insightful the Bible is, just as how the psalmist exclaimed in Psalms 119! The links between the Old Testament and the New Testament are incredible, and I treasure every single word I read because they are all God’s words to guide and train me in righteousness! I am truly grateful and thankful that God has revealed so much to me through His Word!

God has used this circuit breaker to teach me that one thing is needful, and that is to quieten my spirit; to not be worried or upset about many things, and spend time praying and resting in Him; spend time reading the awesome and amazing Bible that is wholly inspired by Him, and simply just to be still and know He is God!

“Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.” Matthew 6:19–21

“The links between the Old Testament and the New Testament are incredible, and I treasure every single word I read because they are all God’s words to guide and train me in righteousness!”



Restored to Wholeness Ministry:

Feeling Alone in Dealing with Grief & Loss

BY Tricia Poon

Experiencing grief and loss is part and parcel of human life. Our reactions to grief and loss can be expansive, ranging from emotionlessness to emotional outbursts. Sometimes, we simply feel so alone in dealing with our grief and loss, and people do not seem to understand.

There are different types of losses, such as loss of loved ones, loss of job, loss of marriage, loss of pets, loss of dreams and aspirations. Special types of losses such as abortions, miscarriages, suicide or sudden/violent death and anticipatory grief are seldom talked about.

Disenfranchised grief refers to grief that is not openly acknowledged or socially validated, and the griever feels that he/she does not have a 'right' to mourn. Many a time, when parents divorce, the grief and loss felt by their children are not acknowledged. How about the death of a pet which has been a faithful companion to a

lonely elderly? Or a young wife who miscarried, but well-meaning family and friends just tell the couple that they are young and they can always try for another baby again? Our community does not permit us to talk about disenfranchised grief. We are expected to move on. People tell us to pray and trust God. And it seems like people do not really care about the pain and loss we are going through.

Do we need inner healing for all the losses we experienced? It all depends on how the loss has impacted us, and whether the loss has incapacitated us or prevented us from moving on.

According to Worden, normal and uncomplicated grief encompasses a whole spectrum of feelings, physical symptoms, cognitions, and behavioural changes. These are common, especially in the initial period of grief and loss. The following table lists some of these.

"People are changed by the experience (of loss), they do not get over it."
- Klass et al



A SPECTRUM OF FEELINGS, PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS, COGNITIONS, & BEHAVIOURS EXPERIENCED AFTER A LOSS (WORDEN, 2018)

FEELINGS	PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS	COGNITIONS	BEHAVIOURS
loneliness	depersonalisation	confusion	absentmindedness
anxiety	breathlessness	disbelief	avoid reminders of the deceased
listlessness	insomnia	hallucinations (common in first few weeks after the loss)	crying
helplessness	dry mouth	preoccupation about the deceased	distracted mind
blame	hypersensitivity	sensing the deceased's presence	dreams about the deceased
guilt & self-blame	lethargic		eating disturbances
ambivalence	tightness in chest		restless hyperactivity
anger	tightness in throat		sighing
numbness	weakness in muscles		sleep disturbances
relief			social withdrawal
sadness			treasuring objects owned by the deceased
shock			visiting places / carrying objects that remind the survivor of the deceased
yearning			

It is important to understand the mourning process so that we can give ourselves some space and time to grieve. It is also perfectly normal to exhibit the above symptoms after a loss and we need people to give us emotional support and validate our pain and loss. Bear in mind that grief is not a problem to be solved. It is a process that we have to walk through and there is no right or wrong way to mourn.

So, when do we seek inner healing? We recommend inner healing ministry to allow the Lord to help us to process the grief and deal with our issues, especially for those of us who experience the following:

- abandonment or neglect issues with the deceased
- ambivalent relationship with the deceased
- abuse or trauma inflicted by the deceased
- enmeshed or co-dependent relationship with the deceased
- unresolved business with the deceased
- ungodly soul ties with the deceased (e.g., elements of fear, control or intimidation in the relationship, or sex outside marriage)
- disenfranchised grief

If these issues are not properly dealt with, it can evolve into complicated grief and can lead to depression, as well as other physical and emotional problems over time. Hence, it is important to seek help and not sweep it under the carpet.

In 2 Corinthians 1:3–4, God’s Word says, “Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God.” As we walk through the season of grief and loss, we are never alone. *“You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.” (Psalm 23:4)*

If you need to seek help for inner healing, please email Pastor Benjamin Wong at benjamin.wong@graceaog.org .

What do you do when you have to do what you need to do but cannot do it the usual way?

Seek out solutions and be an overcomer.

Isn't this the way to solve a problem? If there is a will, there will be a way. Indeed, with God, all things are possible. Every irreconcilable issue and unpardonable sin can be brought before our redemptive God and the body of Christ to seek out a way.

The first online Marriage Preparation and Discipleship Programme (MPDP) kicked off during the most unlikely period — circuit breaker. Pastor

Benjamin Wong, together with marriage mentors Dan Yang and Jayne, Andy and Joanna, Chian Chau and Siew Yeen, as well as Kai Seng and Kim began the journey with the couples. Pastor Benjamin had to prepare online lectures

and the mentors had to learn how to conduct online discussions and breakout sessions. All of them would have preferred face-to-face interactions where they can see the interactions between the couples. But since this was not possible, they braved the uncertainties with the couples and conducted the first online MPDP. Jackie and Shana, a couple who attended the programme, shared their journey:

Overcomers

BY Francis Lee



Happy participants of the MPDP

“I was a bit wary of who these ‘stranger’ mentors were and if I would be getting anything out of it. Having attended a similar course previously and reading similar books, what could be so different?”

“But what has made these sessions valuable were the sincere and candid conversations, and being able to hear different angles, etc. When you hear both the good, the bad, and the ‘real’ from your mentors and your peer couple, you don’t feel so alone, and are reminded that everyone takes time to grow and will always be growing. Bit by bit, you’ll be encouraged to discover what it means to truly love and be loved (just like how God loves us!).”

“The programme itself was also practically structured to deal with the ‘fine print’ of married life, and the pearls of wisdom you pick up along the way to deal with seemingly mundane marital issues are both hilarious and heartwarming. It truly has been an answered prayer for the two of us, as we have sought a relationship mentor for so long. It brings us incredible joy to finally feel disciplined and to grow. Even though the emphasis of the MPDP is on bringing us closer together, we find ourselves walking closer to God too. It has been a fun and fulfilling learning journey, and we truly looked forward to each session no matter how tired we were or how busy we have been. We strongly encourage you to leave the fishing nets behind and be disciplined into godly husbands and wives.”

Jackie and Shana

We thank God for working among us. We are glad that the mentors and the couples did what they had to do. They have learnt to become more resourceful and resilient when faced with a problem. They had modelled for the couples how to be overcomers in many ways in this season, just as they have done so in the past.

Marriage has never been a bed of roses. Even if it is, there will be times when the thorns will prick and make life a little uncomfortable. Couples must find ways to overcome it together as a team.

This is the very first taste of being an overcomer as a couple. For us who have gone ahead of them, we will be able to testify that there will be many more challenges and opportunities ahead to becoming an overcomer with God.

“I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.” (John 16:33)

How to be a **DAD**, and not just a *father*

BY Jim Ng

It is sometimes said that it is easy to be a father, but difficult to be a dad. Indeed, the difference between these two persons lies in the depth of relationship between the parent and his child. A father's protracted work hours, shifting leisure pursuits and technological disruptions can take a toll on this delicate bond. If he is sensitive to the Holy Spirit, he will be nudged time and again not to conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of his mind (Romans 12:2), so as to live a life of worship and discern God's will in his role as a father.

1. Parenting Type

Understanding the diverse parenting types can help. This helped steer me and my wife from the less favourable ones (distant, free-style and directive types) with their attendant pitfalls. We discovered that we embody the parent-coach type, which was increasingly fruitful for us as the years go by. Nurturing our children's faith at home, through Bible reading (Deuteronomy 6:7) and prayers with the family, are more seamlessly implemented by this parenting type. I could mete out positive discipline for misbehaviour in their childhood years more timely, set in place boundaries for Internet surfing and dating the opposite gender, as well as promote abstinence from alcohol, smoking or illicit drug-use in their teenage or young-adult years—a practical application of Proverbs 22:6 in this era.

2. Love Language

The various love languages are words of affirmation, acts of service, physical touch, quality time and receiving gifts. For me and my wife, it was only after discovering the love languages of our two daughters at their early age that paved the way for progressively rewarding relationships among us all. I learnt to utilise words of affirmation (Proverbs 25:11) with one daughter, especially in her stressful moments, while the other daughter had to remind me periodically to carve out

time in my work schedule to spend meaningful time with her at home.

3. Child's Personality

For descriptive purposes, a child's personality may take on the characteristics (strengths and weaknesses) of an otter, bee, lion or dog. My two daughters have an 'otter' and 'bee' personality, and knowing this has helped us with our parenting.

My 'otter' daughter thrives in company and conversations with us or her friends. She also has a creative mind and generous disposition. Every day, I encourage her to share any happy moments or vent about frustrating events. I enjoy her paintings and drawings, and lauded her efforts in assisting the vulnerable and marginalised.

My 'bee' daughter is introverted by nature, meticulous in her schoolwork and cautious in her interactions with friends. I will not pressurise her to communicate more with me (Ephesians 6:4), but only encourage her to share her thoughts with me as and when she is ready to talk. I also go for walks with her alone for recreation or whenever needed.

Support for Fathers

Fathers may feel guilty when they neglect their role as a parent. All it takes is our resolve to renew our minds in Jesus' name. We can also seek support from our church's Fathers Mentoring Group, a group of fathers who regularly meet to be equipped by the church to become good fathers and support one another in our parenting journeys. Together, we should pray and ask for the wisdom of God (James 1:5) and the power of the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8) to help us daily.



Precious childhood moments

Be our Beacon of **HOPE**

BY REACH Community Services Society



Decorations by Mdm Soh, a beneficiary of RCSS

2020, a new decade year where many remained hopeful until COVID-19 came and disrupted everyone's lives. Household incomes are impacted due to job losses and families are in turmoil due to the circuit breaker measures. In such unprecedented times, mental health issues are creeping up which is a growing concern. REACH Community Services Society (RCSS) has been innovating ways in reaching out and staying engaged with people in need even when our shutters are down.

This pandemic has affected every individual and organisation in one way or another. RCSS is not spared either as our donations and sponsorships hit critically low when our fundraising events were cancelled. This season of uncertainty presents extreme difficulties for us to raise our

much-needed funds to support our essential services. As such, the support from Grace Assembly, our church is crucial in helping us to continue our social mission in reaching out to the least, the lost and the lonely in the community.

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has partnered RCSS through your generous giving and volunteering of your time and talent. Without your giving, we would not have come so far. Without your volunteering, we would not have expanded our reach in our community. Thank you for being our ambassador of HOPE that have helped to impact 4,283 lives in 2019.

Your contributions are the reasons to numerous lives impacted and transformed, including Mdm Soh whose artworks are shown above.

Be our Beacon of Hope

Sustain our work through GIRO monthly donation

Give HOPE Now



Pledge Card



Monthly Donation via Giving.sg

REACH
COMMUNITY SERVICES



REACH FLAG DAY SHOW 2020

援触售旗日节目

DUE TO THE COVID-19 SITUATION, WE ARE UNABLE TO HOLD A PHYSICAL FLAG DAY.

HOWEVER, WE ARE HAVING AN ONLINE FUNDRAISING SHOW ON FACEBOOK INSTEAD!

我们将在脸书直播进行援触筹款节目。

DATE 22 AUGUST 2020 | SATURDAY

日期 2020年8月22日 | 星期六

TIME 11AM - 11.30AM

1PM - 1.30PM

时间

早上11点到11.30点

下午1点到1.30点



REACH Community Services Society



快来参加我们的援触售旗日!



Like



Comment



Share

BE AN AMBASSADOR

成为我们的大使

SHARE THIS EVENT ON YOUR FACEBOOK AND START A WATCH PARTY WITH YOUR FRIENDS ON THE DAY ITSELF!

您可以在你的脸书分享这项活动，与您的朋友一同在线观看!

SCAN THE QR CODE OR KEY IN THE LINK BELOW TO START WATCHING THE SHOW!

请扫描QR码或开启以下链接观看援触售旗日直播



TINYURL.COM/FDSHOW2020

PLEASE OPEN YOUR BANK APP AND SCAN THE QR CODE BELOW TO DONATE VIA PAYNOW

请您打开银行应用先，然后才扫描以下的PAYNOW QR码捐款



恩·友

No. 03
2020



C04
以实际行动
彰显神的爱

E28
2020-2021年
新执事会

MCI (P) 070/12/2019



请扫描二维码以订阅
《恩·友》季刊电子版。



7月25日

开始

证道系列

谈爱 (约翰书信)

大概念

正如神爱我们一样，我们不仅要在言语上，也要在行动上
去爱他人。

经文

我们爱，因为上帝先爱了我们。约翰一书四章十九节

简介

在这样的时刻，在全世界都在寻找一种既充满盼望又真实的爱的时刻，约翰书信告诉我们在神的真实的团契中，祂各种丰富的爱。这是一种包容的、真实的、明辨的、超越的、公义的爱。祂的爱呼召我们做正确的事，用言语和行动去爱，去捍卫真理，去为他人代求。“爱的行动”鼓励我们在日常生活中融入并体现神爱世人的好消息，让我们活出福音。在我们当前的恐惧、怀疑和自我保护的氛围中，神的爱差遣我们作为祂的教会，通过爱的行动来传播盼望和真理。确实，我们爱，因神先爱我们。

证道

1. 爱的包括
约翰一书 1:1-4
2. 爱就是光
约翰一书 1:5-2:2
3. 爱守真理
约翰一书 2:3-11
4. 爱不妥协
约翰一书 2:12-28
5. 爱的生命
约翰一书 2:29-3:10
6. 爱有行动
约翰一书 3:11-24
7. 爱护真理
约翰一书 4:1-6;
约翰二书; 约翰三书
8. 完全的爱
约翰一书 4:7-21
9. 爱必得胜
约翰一书 5:1-12
10. 爱必介入
约翰一书 5:13-21

目录 | N° 03/ 2020



恩牧之言

C02-03 新常态：周末每日教会

恩典之作

C04-05 以实际行动彰显神的爱

C06-07 封锁

C08 在试炼和苦难中得胜

恩典节拍

C10-11 分享

恩典故事

C12-13 恩友见证



若要查询在线
崇拜时间，
请扫描二维码。

感谢您的投稿和 照片!

我们感谢恩友们在
这一期《恩·友》中
的投稿和所提供的
照片。

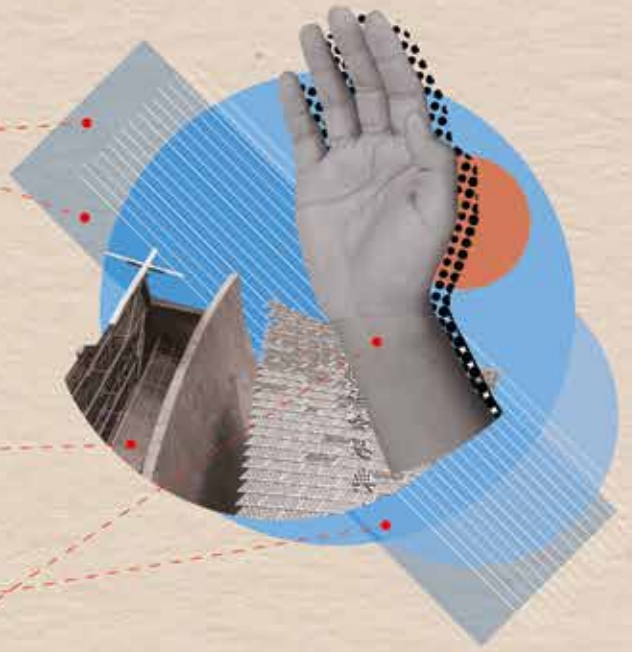


新常态

~~周末~~

每日

教会



平安！

恩典堂从2月8-9日周末开始就停止了实体聚会与活动。过去的五个月里，我们许多人来说是一种煎熬，为了让2019新冠病毒感染情况得到改善，对我们大多数人在阻断期间被限制在家中。我们平生第一次看到在新加坡每个人出门都戴着口罩，所有人都禁止在餐馆、食阁和餐饮店里用餐。

这也是恩典堂在过去七十年的历史里，于这段时期首次通过在线崇拜庆祝受难节与复活节！作为一间本土教会，我们没有让阻断措施阻断我们的门徒训练及继续我们的属灵活动。我们推出了《恩典每日晨修》，就是我们的每日清晨的灵修信息，使恩友们能以神的话开启他们新的一天。以此同时，也以参加每天晚上在线J333祷告会来结束他们的一天。通过这个过程，我们将每周的实体J333祷告会改为每晚的在线代祷时间。

我们的恩典门训中心在过去几个月提供了在线课程，确保恩友们可以在居家办公的同时继续在神的真理中得到装备。我们的在线启发课程吸引了70多位参与者，渴慕寻求神的爱和真理。

透过这次病毒危机，恩典堂从一个专注于周末聚会的教会，转变为每天装备信徒的教会！我们感谢神使教牧团队和领袖在这段转变的过程中加添信心，使用科技去装备信徒并接触未信者。那最初使用在线科技的挑战如今已经成为我们去驾驭它的力量，为要在没有实体教会聚会的情况下装备每一位恩友。我要感谢所有全职同工通过改变事工模式，对这些改变做出迅速的响应，并花了很多时间学习新技能，得以在不同平台上服侍恩友。

在接下来的一段日子，若没有针对2019新冠病毒的疫苗和可靠的治疗，我们的生活将继续受到安全社交距离、戴口罩、清洁双手和远程

办公的限制。这些社会的新常态将影响教会未来的运作模式。恩典堂必须在与恩友保持密切联系的情况下，改变我们的事工方式，并且继续使人作主耶稣基督的门徒。

尽管我们渴望能够尽早在教会和小组中再次相聚，但我们也需使用在线平台充当本土教会的角色，为与2019新冠病毒打一场持久战做好准备。我们必须保持灵活机变，以适应新加坡不断变化的情况，并使恩典堂能够满足我们会友、社区和国家的需要，在这个前所未有的时代完成神的大使命！

赵克文牧师（博士）
主任牧师

以实际行动彰显神的爱

撰文 林燕玲，教会通讯主任 翻译 王紫璇传道

在马可福音12:31中，耶稣吩咐我们「要爱人如己」。我们渴望恩友们不仅「爱神」，也能够去「爱人」。社区外展是我们教会其中一个重要支柱，我们也以实际行动关爱我们的社区居民。

我们的实体聚会与活动自2月8日至9日开始暂停，在长达两个月的阻断期间，几乎所有人都被关在家里，所有的社区外展活动也暂停了。但是，这一切却无法阻断恩典堂寻找其他方法来帮助那些有需要的人，我们感谢神为我们开启了这扇门！

以下是恩典堂所采取的行动之摘要：



1. 青成年恩友协助年老的恩友参与在线崇拜（摄于阻断措施开始实施前）
2. 李向阳传道接收恩友提供的资源
3. 赵克文主任牧师和李向阳传道与 Mr Sukari, Jamek Queenstown Mosque主席交谈
4. 通过在线英语会话教课与外国劳工联系
5. 一站式恩典援助热线与恩友共度难关

1. 一站式恩典援助热线

包括恩友在内，2019新冠病毒使许多人在经济、精神和情感上受到了影响。教会在4月初启动了一站式恩典援助热线，以联系需要得到任何帮助的人，包括祷告、辅导、短期经济援助以及协助需要与恩典小组联系的人。该援助热线还允许恩友与教会建立联系并合作帮助需要帮助的人。

2. 援助年长恩友

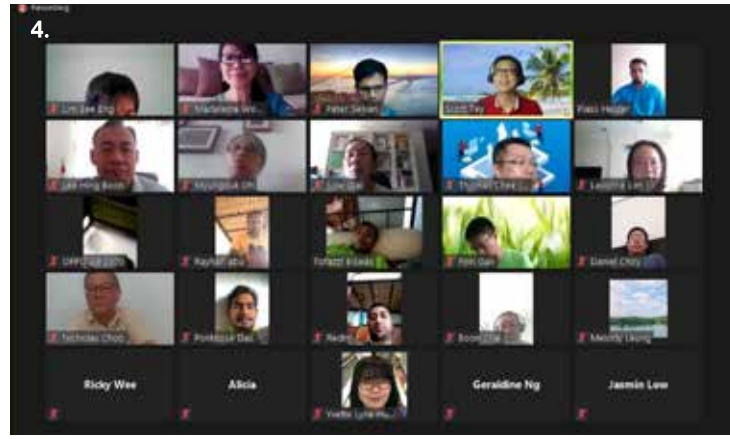
由于我们暂停了教会的实体崇拜，许多年长会友观看在线证道上遇到困难。

在4月7日阻断措施开始实施前，我们动员了一些青成年和专业人士 (YAYP) 带着平板电脑和笔记本电脑，去到他们的家中，协助他们参与在线崇拜！我们为这些年轻的恩友赞美神！

可惜的是，当政府实施了限制探视的措施后，根据教会医疗咨询委员会的建议，我们也不得不暂时停止探访。

然而，随着阻断措施在第二阶段开始放松，我们在探讨将恢复这一行动，这将为两代恩友之间的互动创造一个美好的机会。





地作为一个提供给无家可归者的临时安歇之所。

除了临时住所，教会还为居民提供餐食。我们感谢一些恩典使命小组集中他们的资源一起购买并运送食物和礼包给在恩典安宿@武吉巴督的居民。

当6月1日阻断期结束之际，恩典安宿@武吉巴督也停止了运作。社会和家庭发展部已经将所有居民转到了其他临时住所。

居民离开后，我们也对聚会场所进行了消毒，以让幼稚园的老师 and 孩子们在假期后回到安全的环境中上课。

作为教会，我们很开心能够分享和使用神所供应我们的一切，以实际行动去服侍，去帮助有需要的人。我们祷告特别是在这样备受挑战的期间，所有受惠者都能够透过我们的行动经历神的爱与安慰。

若您愿意透过我们教会的任何举措对社区服事有所贡献或参与服事，请通过恩典援助热线64100831，或者发送电邮至church@graceaog.org与我们联系。

3. 派发口罩和消毒液

作为我们在本地宣教工作的一部分，教会已经向社区及双溪登加客工宿舍的客工们派发了7000多个口罩和消毒液。但是，在4月份启动阻断措施后，我们停止了这项举动。

在阻断期安全解封的第一阶段，我们也呈现了200瓶消毒洗手液给在恩典堂@东陵的邻居，詹美回教堂（女皇镇），以祝福他们，好帮助他们为了私人崇拜而重新开放。

4. 援助客工

虽然我们无法与在新加坡的客工们面对面交流，但教会仍设法与他们接触。我们招募恩友，透过举办在线课程教他们英语对话，与他们做朋友！


我们的恩典差传团队也在5月为他们举行了在线哈芝节派对，并打算在国庆日为他们举行多一次的在线聚会。

我们希望成为神爱的器皿，即使他们在这大流行病期间身在异乡远离家人，却能够透过我们所做的这一切得着安慰与感动。

5. 恩典安宿@武吉巴督

在阻断期间，我们了解到需要临时住所的露宿者人数有所增加。

神祝福恩典堂使我们拥有自己的教堂建筑。既然我们教会恩典堂@东陵和恩典堂@武吉巴督的两处聚会场所因阻断措施关闭两个月，所有员工和幼稚园也在5月休一个月的长假，教会就决定使用我们恩典堂@武吉巴督的场



2019新冠病毒虽然是一种小病毒，却带来了巨大的全球性的变化，迫使学校和企业关闭，扰乱了数百万人的日常生活。和所有其他国家一样，尼泊尔也经历了一个逐步封锁的过程。

2020年3月7日，尼泊尔政府宣布采取2019新冠病毒措施预防：保持个人卫生，尽可能多呆在室内，避免大规模聚集。聚集在同一地点的人数不可超过25人。在我们的教会历史上，我们第一次要求我们的会友

呆在家里，不要来教会。在主日崇拜的日子，看到教堂的院子里如此安静和空旷，这种感觉很奇怪！

2020年3月24日，政府宣布全面封锁一周，随后又延长了封锁时间。至今，尼泊尔进入了5个月的封锁期。当时我们虽然在行动上可能被封锁了，但却无法封锁住我们的信心与我们的灵。从我们被封锁的第一天起，教会就迅速动员并鼓励他们的会友祷告。我们都被关在家里，但祷告运动蔓延到全国各地。

封锁

来自尼泊尔区域负责人的最新消息

撰文 尼泊尔/印度区域负责人 翻译 王紫璇传道

“...我们要感恩的是，我们得益于恩典差传早些时候发起的微型企业计划。现在，山羊、猪、鸡和鱼类的养殖将使他们得以维持他们的生活。”

在我们的教会，我们的会友每天早上7-8点和晚上7-8点之间进行祷告。从一天两次的祷告，变成了24小时的祷告链。当我们读到美国、意大利和欧洲其他地区暴发疫情的消息，以及形势的严重性时，大家的祷告也变得越来越强烈。当然，我们担心这样的疫情在南亚的这个地区暴发，因为这里的医疗设施非常有限。

在城市里，教会很快就为会友和更大的基督教群体提供了在线布道。我们也开始为我们地区内受我们支持植堂者提供在线培训。当然，有些人没有智能手机或笔记本电脑。其他一些在农村地区的人，没有互联网或数据连接。然而，在可能的条件下，我们教他们使用科技来保持彼此间的联系。每个人都必须为应对即将到来的变化学习和获得新的技能。

目前，许多牧者也面临着挑战。在封锁之前，牧师依靠会友每月所献的十一奉献和其他奉献中获取收入。现在没有实体的教会聚会，也

没有十一奉献和其他奉献，我们也无法上网奉献。但我们要感恩的是，我们得益于恩典差传早些时候发起的微型企业计划。现在，山羊、猪、鸡和鱼类的养殖将使他们得以维持他们的生活。

这样的封锁给国家和教会带来了许多挑战，最受影响的是靠日薪生活的工人。黄包车司机、路边摊、清洁工、工厂工人，还有许多其他人现在都没有了收入。即使是流浪儿童也有危险！我们的教会会友也不能免于这种困境。早些时候买的粮食已经消耗殆尽，剩下的很快就会耗尽。现在，为家庭补充供给是一个问题。

是我们教会的一位会友，Sonita，开了一家小茶馆。她的丈夫9个月前发生了一次事故，腿骨折了，有并发症，他又做了多次手术。长期住院已耗费一大笔医药费。虽然他现在和家人在一起(他们有两个女儿)，但他仍然不能正常行走。由于封锁，他们的茶馆也被关闭了，他们的收入来源也随之消失。

另一位名叫Sumay，一个人住在她家楼梯旁一间黑暗的小房间里。当我们的一位教会领袖昨天拜访她时，我们发现她在过去的三天里一直靠茶和饼乾充饥，因为她的煤油炉的燃烧器坏了。商店都关门了，她无法修理。此外，因为她还没有找到工作，也没有钱修理。

2019新冠病毒教会了我们所有人要节俭。虽然现在困难重重，但我们的牧者和会友们已经从专注应付他们个人需要上，转向他们的邻居和社区，向他们提供了实际的帮助，让大家都有食物吃！它使我们进入了另一个怜悯和给予的领域，靠着我们主的名和圣灵体现出良善的行为。

即使我们彼此隔离，但我们仍然相信神在作工。我们正在经历一个过程，就像毛毛虫作茧，转变和等待出现成为一个美丽的蝴蝶。让我们在这个大流行期间，迫切的为彼此代祷。愿我们都仰望耶稣，祂是我们信心的创始成终者。阿门！

在试炼 和苦难中 得胜

来自一位恩典差传
植堂者的见证

撰文 刘晓慧 翻译 王紫璇传道



我们国家的事工，从未离开过政府的监控。这也是为什么我们被称为「硬土」，这是福音自由传播的硬土。即使在这场大流行病的危机中，宗教自由仍然受到限制，我们的教会也一直面对从未停止过的挑战，在不被逮捕的情况下装备我们的羊群。当我们的城市因2019新冠病毒进入封锁期时，但对宗教的逼迫并没有完全停止。尽管如此，我们恩典差传的区域负责人仍尽力与我们保持联系。我们为这些恩典差传的区域负责同工感谢神，他们找不同方法与机会与我们祷告，给予教牧关怀。

每个星期，我们的恩典差传负责同工都会与我们不同城市的同工分组聚集，一起祷告。我们不断为疫情祷告，也在当局实施的行动限制中举步维艰。值得感恩的是，我们国家的植堂者中没有人感染病毒。除了把它看作是患难中的保护，更让我们知道我们被呼召去爱迷失的羊和主的门徒。在封闭期间，《诗篇》第23章极大地鼓舞了我们。我们大多数人在这一流行病中所导致的经济衰退中受到打击。但有时当我们看起来很缺乏的时候，我们知道我们并不缺乏，因为神是我们的供应者。我们感谢上帝在有限的环境下带领我们把工作当作使命来做。通过我们的辅导中心，我们获得了一些收入。而且，在大流行病暴发后，我们已经被安排搬到另一间公寓居住，租金也下降了，我们把所有这些完全看作是神赐福和恩典。

我们已经学习有创意地使用网上平台来教导教会会友。借着这一切的努力，我们赞美神，因着祂的恩典，那些不冷不热的信徒，也慢慢地归向主。即使在所有这些美好的见证中，我们仍需要您的祷告，因

为一个成长中的教会似乎对我们的政府构成了威胁。请为我们的教会能继续在网上运作祷告。现在，我们的祷告、查经、敬拜和小组都在网上。在这次大流行病期间，我们加大了努力，去接触更多人，甚至是那些生活在其他城市的人。

我们也有好消息要告诉大家！从去年开始，我们一直在探索如何将我们的辅导专业作为一个创意平台，在网上和现场为耶稣赢得世人。我们相信这种创意的服侍方式会软化我们国家「硬土」，让人们看到耶稣的门徒不仅传道，也提供实际的爱。

这里，要跟大家分享一个好消息的简单见证。一个在网上接受治疗的弟兄接受耶稣为主，现在成为了主的门徒！我们这位弟兄曾经因为家庭压力和成长过程中认为自己的生活毫无价值而患上抑郁症。然而，经过几轮辅导后，他被圣灵感动了。最重要的是，他从神的大家庭里得到的爱和关怀，向他表明神的爱可以把他从所有导致毁灭的思想中释放出来。现在，他在神的爱中得胜，他的身份和价值深植在主耶稣里。

尽管我们的国家处境艰难，疫情似乎使生活情况变得更糟，但我想鼓励我们所有人，就是在艰难的情况下也有美好的一面。神仍在工作，仍在感动我们的心。当身体逐渐衰残，我们的灵永活。就像耶稣爱世人一样，我们也要效法祂，永不放弃爱、关怀、亲近失丧的羊并装备他们。我们在基督里是得胜的，并且因耶稣所流出的宝血，能胜过一切的逼迫和瘟疫。所以，新加坡的弟兄姐妹们，让我们不要放弃这场美好的仗。请相信，在黑暗中，我们就是荣耀主名的那束光！

什一与其他奉献 差传奉献

请浏览我们教会的网站以了解如何献上
您的什一与其他奉献以及差传奉献。

<https://www.graceaog.org/giving>



适应新常态

撰文 陈成今牧师

一、面对面和在线进行小组

在线上进行小组，少了肢体的接触，眼神的交流，看不清楚对方的表情，没有面对面那么亲切，较难产生共鸣。

网上崇拜让我们在新冠病毒疫情的隔离当中也可以一起敬拜上帝。

二、网络进行活动

A. 优点：

1. 省去了舟车劳顿，出席人数增加了。
2. 牧者领袖都成了网络主播，不知不觉中想做的更好，自我提升想出更多创意点子，学会更多电脑知识和技能。
3. 家庭成员带领年长者上网，加强家庭的凝聚力。
4. 未信主家人，听到恩友的敬拜祷告，播下了福音的种子。

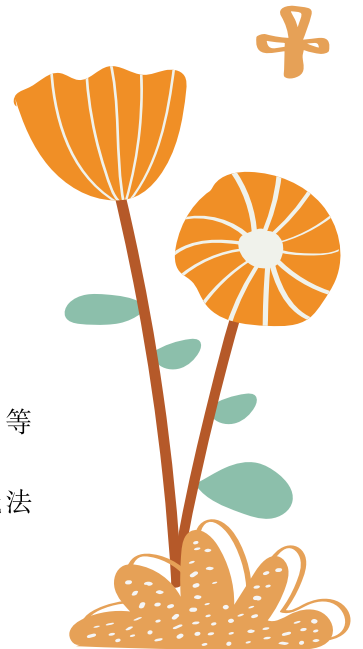
B. 缺点：

1. 会出现网络不稳定，电脑黑客攻击等问题。
2. 会受其他事物或家人干扰而分心，无法专注。
3. 不容易与恩友建立良好的情感关系。

三、个人观点

1. 除了大型布道会和主日崇拜，小组祷告，查经等在网上进行是可行的。
2. 继续学习和教导年长者上网以备不时之需。
3. 神提醒我们要预备好我们的心，传播更多的福音种子，因为祂的日子近了。

任何灾难和隔离都不能阻挡我们敬拜上帝，瘟疫降临必有神的美意，祂必赐我们智慧度过这个困难时期。阿门！



疫情下的牧养

撰文 张玉璋牧师



一场疫情，改变了很多教会的事工形态，更促使人们开始反思新媒体给教会带来的各样影响和契机。

这次的疫情冲击了我们实体的崇拜。大家被迫必须透过网络牧养。什么是Zoom?我都不会，我都听不懂，不明白，也不知道该怎么用，怎么这么麻烦？这是这两个月来会友，领袖，甚至教牧们的反应，牢骚与挣扎。所有教牧同工，会友领袖都需要学习新的科技与技术。

从起初的抱怨，挣扎，没耐性到如今看见年长者渐渐可以熟悉如何操作，掌握进入看视频崇拜，与我们在线小组，上课，祷告会等。可以在属灵上继续得着喂养，教牧们也可以协助会友继续追求神的话语，在属灵上成长。

我只能默默的为着这些科技感谢上帝，愿神继续借着这场疫情帮助我们不失去起初对祂的爱。

《恩典每日晨修》



撰文 王紫璇传道

今年4月20日开始，我们为恩友们推出了《恩典每日晨修》的系列灵修。我们的教牧团队轮流以5分钟的视频分享形式，配合灵修文档，每天与大家分享一章经文的重点和各自的领受。盼望我们能够以这样的形式，丰富恩友们的属灵生活，以神的话开启每一天。

一开始对于教牧们来说，各自在家录制灵修视频是一个全新的尝试与挑战。我们需要在规定的时间内分享要点，需要调试设备，需要以适合的语速和状态。开始的过程是挑战的，但成果是喜悦的。在不断地

尝试和完善当中，我们相信每一天的灵修都将为恩友们带来帮助。各教牧通过分享自己的生命与见证，以及对经文的领受，盼望能与恩友们一同灵修，一同领受神的话语。

《恩典每日晨修》的推出，不但盼望能够成为恩友们的祝福，其实教牧们也从中得着从神而来的祝福与恩典。当我们每次细读和揣摩需要分享的经文时，我们都在当中领受了从神来的感动，当我们透过经文审视我们自己的生命时，发现神的爱与恩典时刻与我们同在。

愿我们能够继续在每一天的灵修中一同学习、一同成长、一同被主的话语建立。

J333祷告会

撰文 廖丽婷



文来传道5月8日通过电话鼓励我负责5月14日的J333祷告会，想到自己是第一位领袖上线带领J333，心中难免有担心和挣扎，但是我还是欣然接受这挑战，因为我必须回应圣灵的带领，把握主给予的机会。

记得4月26日凌晨，我带着忧伤的灵从睡梦中醒来，翻开马太福音11章：第一眼看到的是17节「我们向你们吹笛、你们不跳舞；我们向你们举哀，你们不捶胸」当时我不住为自己和恩友祷告，我们是不是心冷漠、麻木了，不冷不热是不能讨神的喜悦.....我们是不是肢体分开了，不再同心合一，这不是神的心意。我不住祷告寻求圣灵指教我，帮助我明白祂的心意。慈爱有怜悯的神，此刻给我机会可以和恩友们一起为肢体代祷代求是祂的恩典。

在预备主题，代祷事项时，我再次被圣灵提醒，要活出呼召，灵就要复兴，且必要保守我们的心，遵行祂所吩咐的大诫命和大使命。

在整个过程中，非常感谢文来传道耐心给予的帮助和提醒，感恩看到团队不分彼此，同心合一的配合、互相效力叫爱神的人得益处，个人得到很大的安慰和鼓励，深知祂垂听孩子们的祷告，赐我们健康，力量继续事奉祂。

就如打开天窗歌词一

- 愿我的祷告如香陈列在祢的面前
- 愿我的敬拜到祢面前蒙祢悦纳
- 我们只要祢的荣耀，祢的同在这地

我心存感恩，因祂让我活着，而且让我能继续事奉祂。阿门！

恩友见证

感谢主恩典天天够我们用，虽然疫情突然来袭造成阻断措施的不便，无法回教会参与崇拜和服事社区，但是我仍要感谢神为我们开了一条新路线让我们可以使用网络上线参与崇拜，小组灵修祷告会，也可以约歌唱班的学员上线拉咖啡。

感谢主的感动要我把每天12点的祷告录音传去歌唱班带领学员一起祷告，为要让他们知道在这非常时期里身为基督徒仍然仰望信靠神，感谢神保守我们平安健康可以为全世界祝福祷告，这是有福的。记得有一次我把祷告语音传错家了，竟然有学员私函问我为什么没听到我的祷告？哈利路亚！原来他们已经习惯听我祷告的声音了！也有学员对福音敞开渴慕认识神的真理，参加陈牧师所教导的歌林多查经班，由于她听不懂福建话，所以我把她引荐给华文堂的张牧师，期盼她早日得救。荣耀归于天上的父神，阿门！

吴尤莉姐妹

我是润珍。以前的我只会在主日到教会祷告，听讲道，不然就是在小组里和弟兄姐妹们学习与分享。但是，在这个阻断措施期间，我开始参加在线崇拜与晚上的祷告会。最让我欢欣的是能够观看中英文的每日晨修。我觉得当中的内容和重点让我们容易理解。

我记得很奇妙的一件事，就是在4月26日的清晨，主突然向我说话，感动我说不单单要听，也要把每日的重点写下来，对我有帮助，

我就会慢慢从中理解。从那天起，我就用一个记事本，把中文和英文的晨修重点内容都写下来。当我这样做的饿时候，我开始慢慢思考里面的内容。这样的方式也让我慢慢地对圣经经文更有兴趣。当我记下英文内容的时候，许多很久没用的字句都会慢慢从我脑海中浮现出来。

感谢主，在这段期间，然我对圣经有更深入的了解，也让我感到其中的乐趣。

吴润珍姐妹

我很高兴并感谢教会在期间有这样的机会分享我的一些遭遇和经验。我必须说，现在这样的疫情爆发的打击是我们大家最不期望的。

我们继续赞美神无论是好坏或遇到什么样的人和生活方式，我们交给他，因为他的意念高过我们所想的。在此，一切荣耀归给他。阿门！

去年疫情爆发之前，我已经被裁员了。这是由于公司运营模式发生了变化，最终决定外包。即使失业，我也不必担心需要要很快找到工作，因为当时的经济状况仍然相当稳定。因此，在那段时间里，我决定休假几个月，同时让自己学习上帝的话。如果我不被裁员，那可能不会发生，因为我在工作期间没有花很多时间与家人在一起，精力有限，无法读圣经，也没有时间与上帝同在，大部分时候我在祈祷期间入睡了。灵命一点都不重视，这是

由于工作需求和压力，我需要整天工作到凌晨。

因此，有一天，一位前教会的朋友介绍我加入圣经学习。由于这是我计划的一部分，因此很高兴地接受了他的邀请，没有再三思。

一开始，我们进行了一对一的会议，回顾了旧约与新约的圣经基础，以及如何知道耶稣履行了他对旧约的诺言等。历时约2.5个月，最后我被建议参加更成熟的圣经研究，然后我被带进了一大批由各种基督教派组成的圣经研究。我们每周要上三堂课，预计持续四个月。但是，在1.5个月后，政府裁定，我们不能在人群聚集中见面，因此我们的班级更改为小至四人甚至在Zoom中见面。通过这些安排，一切似乎都很好，并且顺利进行了大约一个月。老实说，我非常愿意遵循他们的教导，因为这正是我所要寻找的东西，我以为没有什么可以引起我的疑心但是实际上我却加入了被称为「邪教」的错误团体并且已经成为了媒体新闻上的的关注。在那个时候的我，还没意识到，一直到有一天，小组中一位负责人的「牧师」给我打来电话，告诉我，该小组正在被解散，我们不能再继续进行圣经学习课程。同时，另一位资深牧师也致电并表示遗憾，因为他们没有透露自己的真实身份和动机。我很震惊，一开始不知道该怎么办。我祈祷并突然意识到，我实际上是在靠着上帝的恩典和智慧的保护下，将我从错误的团体中解救出来。我感谢上帝，因为他是任何危险情况下的陪伴。赞美神！

我现在已经了解也仍然有信心，并且不会仅仅基于计划和潜意识就认为我们走了正确的道路。因此，请注意我们参加的局外人课堂，我们必须保持警惕，以检查并转介给我们的教会长辈以寻求建议。

我继续寻求在教会的正确指导下以上帝的话语学习和成长，我相信上帝对我与家人的保护之手，他的恩典就足够了，他永远不会让我们失望，并在危险中把我们救出。

我也开始寻找工作机会，并希望我能在疫情的情况下，靠着上帝的恩典，再次适应劳动力市场。

保重，愿上帝保佑一切！
请留在家中并保持安全！

汤优月姐妹

当政府宣布阻断措施，民众都感到非常的恐慌。许多人都担心会被病毒感染、民众争先恐后的去抢购食物。每天最关注的重点是确诊人数有多少！周围的话题总是谈论哪里买口罩？怎样才能避免被感染？

在这样的环境下，我开始有一点徬徨。我都要活在心惊胆跳的日子吗？就在我上网阅读时，我看到了神给我的感动和呼召！走出去帮助其它人，你就会发现上帝的帮助临到你。就因为这句话，我开始了更精采的人生。我开始和感到忧虑和受疫情影响的人传达正能量的话题、把种青葱的照片放上脸书，让朋友们去猜那一颗会先发芽、挑战

自己是否能在这一段期间，烹饪出每日新佳肴。

近期也在学习怎么样用Power Point，怎么样在线上与年长者一同玩游戏。我相信靠着主！我一定行的！

当我们点上别人蜡烛的光。别人有了我们的光，我们自己也有光。当我们成为别人的光，上帝就会成为我们的光！

感谢天父的慈爱！耶稣的救恩！圣灵的充满！阿门！

洪玉珠Alyson姐妹

年初女儿要在我们家附近找一间托婴所，但后来觉得设备/环境不是很周全，最后我们决定由我帮她一个星期照顾两天，女儿一个星期在家中办工三天。我向上帝祷告后就和老板商量看可不可以允许我由全职转成部分时间职。老板在一番思考后同意了，感谢主，但这也意味着由4月开始薪金也减少40%。

就在开始几天后，因疫情政府实施阻断措施，当时不知会受到怎样的影响因为我的工作没法在家办公的类型。老板要我选拿年假再算工作几天算几天薪金（还会拿到些许薪水）或拿无薪假。当时觉得经济会受影响而心情低落。我再次向上帝求告。不久后政府公布了津贴国民75%的薪金，公司才让我搬电脑回家在家办公但减少了25%薪金，不至于完全没了收入。

这让我深信所需用的，上帝也叫我们都必充足。如腓立比比书4:13—我靠着那加给我力量的，凡事都能做。神必照他荣耀的丰富，在基督耶稣里使你们一切所需用的都充足。（腓4:19）

王纯和 姐妹

断路器，阻不断福音大能！

信主15年，深明耶稣所吩咐的大使命，你们要往普天下去传福音给万民听，（可16:15）现今因疫情不能接触人群，难道就等候疫情过去才能延续这大使命吗？我问了自己以上的问题。随后圣灵感动我从手机中翻查记录，有什么朋友是曾经拒绝福音的？既有那么多人因阻断实施留在家中发愁的时候，何不趁这机会发些见证影片给他们，于是我从网站转发些艺人见证给他们，因为不陌生果效会比较好，于是熟悉的和偶遇的都一起发。感谢主！虽然没有太多回应，但也没有被拒绝，我相信圣灵会工作，一定有人会观看，种子已落在一些人心。同时，我也邀请一些因忙于工作而不能出席教会活动的弟兄姐妹参加小组和祷告会，并将恩典录的连接发给他们及一些香港亲友，鼓励他们上线听晨修与聚会，虽然在这段阻断期间我几乎天天待在家中，但却活得一样的丰盛精彩。荣耀归主！

蔡美香姐妹