JANUARY 2016 ISSUE

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD MICA (P) 111/02/2015

b u l l e t i N

O2 Changes in Nexus 2016

Grace Bookstore Reopens at GI & GII!

Introducing Grace Lay Ministers

It's 2016, a brand new year.

Let me ask every Gracian an important question, 'What is your vision for your life, family, career and business for 2016'?

I want you to know that God has a vision for your life. He has a mental image of who you can and should be, as well as what you can and should do.

A vision gives purpose and significance to our lives. Vision brings focus, order and enable us to see things differently. Vision energizes us, provides motivation and gives us a sense of direction. A vision also gives a sense of purpose, a fresh perspective and a passion to live for Him.

I have set aside the month of January as a Vision Month. God has a vision for Grace Assembly. I'm fully convicted that God has called Grace to be a Missional Family Church. You have heard me talking about it but in the month of January, more will be shared and my prayer is that there will be a strong shared vision in the family of Grace Assembly.

Firstly, in line with the Vision Month, I'm calling the church to take time to seek the Lord in January. It's the beginning of a new year and it's imperative that we hear from Him and move forward with a fresh empowerment of the Holy Spirit upon our lives.

The Lord laid upon my heart Joel 1:14 where it says, 'Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the Lord your God and cry out to the Lord.'

The staff will be taking more time to fast and pray. At the same time, every J333 in January will be set aside as a sacred assembly as God's people come to seek His face. May we come with humility and also a heart of desperation for more of Him in our lives and church.

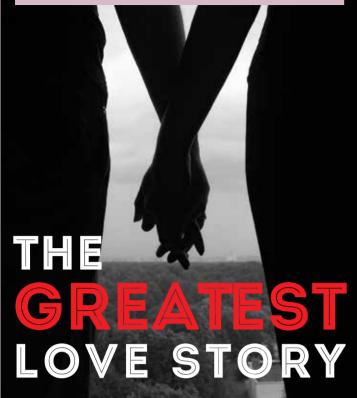
Secondly, I'm asking you to contribute your ideas and suggestions as to how we can make Grace Assembly a stronger Missional Family Church.

January will be a powerful month as we envisage God's vision for your life and also for the church.

Let me wish every Gracian a blessed New Year and may you have a fresh revelation of the Father's love in 2016.

Ps Calvin Lee Senior Pastor

FEB-APR 2016: SERMON SERIES



SYNOPSIS:

"He spies His beloved in the garden ... Ah, how He has laboured to create their life together. But tragedy strikes — love betrayed, rejected and broken, and the beloved falls into the clutches of a diabolical enemy. The Lover does not give up. He relentlessly pursues the Beloved though she proves to be distracted and unfaithful time and again. Finally, He pays a heavy cost to redeem her and woos her back. Now engaged, the couple is awaiting the Day. Will they make it? How will this story end?"

From February to April of this year, we will be drawn right into the midst of the most intriguing love story of all time and all eternity! We will explore the core essence of our Father God, his character of Love and how this is played out in the whole gospel story — the story of God's incredible love, and be challenged to respond to the outpouring of the passion and compassion of the ultimate Lover. As we gain a fresh revelation and a deeper understanding of the love of God, it will enable us to anchor our faith life in Him, empower us to face life's challenges and embolden us to share His Love Story.

Be entranced by the coming episodes of The Greatest Love Story:

- 1. The Lover
- 2. The Beloved
- 3. The Breakup
- 4. The Pursuit
- 5. The Dowry
- 6. The Proposal
- 7. The Engagement
 - 8. The Wedding

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING (ABM) MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

Please note that the 55th ABM will be held at the following:

Date : 18 March 2016 (Friday) Time : 6.00 – 10.00 pm Venue : GI L3 Bethel Hall

Thank you to those who have updated their membership details online or have returned the hardcopy forms to us. Even if you do not have any changes/updates on your particulars, you are still required to visit the website, and activate it as part of the updating process.

If you have not received the letter about updating your membership details, please proceed to the church office at: Grace Assembly of God, Admin Office Level 5 355 Tanglin Road, Singapore 247960 Tel: 64100800 Email: cms@graceaog.org

Please provide us details of your name, NRIC number, home address, contacts and the services that you are currently attending.

Note that in accordance with the Church Constitution, you will be eligible to be a Voting Member (entitled to vote for those who are 18 years and above), if you have done your update at least 2 weeks before the ABM. Therefore, members who have not done their update before 5 March 2016, will not be eligible to vote during this coming ABM.

For those who wish to find out whether you have updated your particulars successfully, please log on to http://www. graceaog.org/register and click on "ABM Status"

CHANGES IN 2016					
SERVICE	AGE GROUP	TIMING	VENUE		
Emerge @ R-AGE	11-13 years old	Sundays, 11:15am	Emmaus		
Elevate ଜ R-AGE	14-19 years old	Saturdays, 5pm (Cell groups start at 3pm)	Emmaus		
No Pre-School & Children's Church during YAYP Service					

For enquires, please email to jac.tang@graceaog.org

WEDDING IN JANUARY

Heartiest congratulations to the following couple, may the Lord continue to bless & guide them with wisdom & strength as they embark on their new journey together!

> Chua Yew Wei and Noella Yee 2 January 2016

Melvin Kwok and Hoong Liying 16 January 2016

03 CHURCHWIDE

EVENTS CALENDAR 2016

CHURCHWIDE: JANUARY - MARCH				
2 Jan	Grace Party	GI L2 Fellowship 7pm		
6 Jan	J333 Prayer Meeting (Combined)	GI L1 Galilee 7.30pm		
18-20 Jan	Staff Retreat (Combined)	Batam View Beach Resort		
22 Jan	Special Meeting with Dr Vincent Leoh	GI L3 Bethel 7.00pm		
8 Feb	Chinese New Year Service	GI L3 Bethel 10am		
26 Feb - 27 May	Adult Alpha course (Fris)	GI L2 Eden 6pm		
18 Mar	55th Annual Business Meeting (ABM)	GI L3 Bethel 6pm		
25 Mar	Good Friday Service (English)	GI L3 Bethel 7pm		
MINISTRY: JANUARY				
14-28 Jan	GDP-Foundation of our Faith (Thurs)	GI L1 Gethsemane 7.30pm		
16-30 Jan	Women of Grace WOG-SBS (Sats)	GI L2 Eden 10am		
16-30 Jan; 13-27 Feb; 5 Mar	Men's Bible Study MBS (Sats)	G1 L1 Gethsemane 10am		
20-27 Jan; 17-24 Feb; 2-9 Mar	Women of Grace WOG-DBS (Weds)	GII L2 Praise Rm 10am		

23 Jan Family Life -Essential Teaching on Jealousy

G2 L2 Praise Rm 3pm

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

Lovers For Life

Marriage Preparation & Discipleship Program 1st Half of 2016

Going steady or planning to get married?

If so, the Marriage Preparation & Discipleship Program (MPDP) is for you. This programme geared to provide you with a Biblical understanding of what constitutes holy matrimony and the practical aspects of building a successful marriage.

Dates:

MPP1 – Feb 27, Mar 5, 12, 19, 26 (2016) (Sats) Closing date: 7 Feb (Sun)

MPP2 – May 7, 14,21,28 & Jun 4 (2016) (Sats) Closing date: 17 Apr (Sun)

Venue & Time: To be confirmed

Registration for MPDP Please visit our website www.graceaog.org/mpdc

Please email to jamie.lim@ graceaog.org or call her at 6410-0827

Please note MPDP is a prerequisite for all couples who wished to be solemnized in Grace Assembly of God

Twelve Women Of The Bible (Part 2)

Do you have the courage to do what God ask of you? As a woman, have you ever been treated as an outcast?

What is the most valuable

gift you can present to Jesus? Have you experienced a life changing encounter with Jesus?

Continuing from Part 1 of six Old Testament women in 2015, in this part 2 of the book 'Twelve Women of the Bible', we will study the lives of six women from the New Testament who had significant encounters with Jesus. These women overcame all odds to be transformed into women of faith. In the midst of their pain they found courage and boldness through their identity in Jesus.

Come join Women Of Grace (WOG) in this 6-week study and be transformed!

Dates of class:

20, 27 January; 17, 24 February; 2, 9 March 2016 [Wednesdays]

Dates of registration: 3, 10 January 2016

Register at: GI L5 Office & GII L3 Office

Grace House Kindergarten Intake for Year 2017 is open!

Church Members Registration

Date : 24 February 2016 (Wednesday) Time : 9.00 am – 11.00 am Venue : GII Bukit Batok, Level 4

Public Registration:

Singaporeans Only Date : 1 March 2016 (Tuesday) Time : 8.30 am sharp Venue : GII Bukit Batok, Level 1

Singapore PR & Foreigners Only Date : 3 March 2016 (Thursday) Time : 9.30 am to 4.00 pm Venue : GII Bukit Batok, Level 4

You are cordially invited!

Registration for Nursery 1, Nursery 2, Kindergarten 1 & Kindergarten 2 (children born between 2011 to 2014) is open.

Please bring along your child's: 1) Birth cert

- 2) Health booklet
- 3) Both parents' I/C
- 4) Church membership cert (For Grace Assembly members only)
- Registration fees, deposit & insurance (total \$534) in cheque or cash

For more information, please contact us: Tel: 6899-8851

Email: evetay@gracehouse.com.sg Website: www.gracehouse.com.sg



J333

J333 PRAYER MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 2016

Dates : 6, 13, 20 & 27 January 2016 (Wednesday)

Time : 7:30 - 8:30 pm

Venue: G1 L1 Galilee

Prayer Focus: A Sacred Assembly

"Declare a holy fast; call a sacred assembly. Summon the elders and all who live in the land to the house of the LORD your God, and cry out to the LORD. " Joel 1:14

04 CHURCHWIDE

Grace Missional College

More than 40 have enrolled for the 1st Term

The 1st module, Christology, will be held from 28 – 30 January (Thursday & Friday, from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday, from 9.30 a.m. to 3 p.m.), at Grace Assembly @Tanglin Road.

The next 2 modules, New Testament Survey 1, and Dynamics of Effective Communication, will held on 14-16 April and 21-23 April, respectively. The self-directed study for The Book of Acts: The Spirit & the Mission of Church, and Apologetics are from April to June.

BINT115: New Testament Survey I 14-16 April 2016

Professor: Dr Ronald Cottle

An overview of the historical, political, and social contexts of the Gospels. Attention is given to authorship, date, canonicity, structure, styles and themes with emphasis and exposition of key passages and their doctrinal significance.

Dr Ronald Cottle is the founder and former president of Christian Life School of Theology in Columbus, GA. He received a Ph. D. in Religion and an Ed. D. from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California. He has extensive experiences in evangelism, pastoring, teaching, administration and television ministry.

BIPT340: Dynamics of Effective Communication 21-23 April 2016

Professor: Dr Randal Langley

A comprehensive study targeted for both beginning and veteran speakers in the art of public speaking and communication. Students will be taught the SCORRE system - a creative and relevant communication model used by leaders to effectively penetrate today's culture.

Dr Randal Langley, D Min, is the current president of Christian Life Educators Network-Christian Life School of Theology Global. He has served as Vice President of Beacon Institute of Ministry, Columbus, GA, National Conference Speaker, Bible School Teacher, Television Host and Senior Pastor of Evangel Cathedral, Spartanburg, SC.

BINT555: The Book of Acts: The Spirit & the Mission of Church (Elective)

A study of the beginnings and expansion of the early church, with particular attention given to the role of the Holy Spirit, the missional and apostolic ministry.

BIBT425: Apologetics (Elective)

This course is designed to introduce students to apologetics, a branch of theology that provides answers for the truth claims of Christianity. Attention is given to the biblical worldview compared to other worldviews and the historical trustworthiness of the Christian Scriptures.

If you would like to register for either of the above 2 modules or for the self-directed study, please submit your registration, or enquiry, to gmcollege@graceaog.org

You may log on, www.graceaog.org/gracemissionalcollege for more information.

Grace Retreat 2016

LOVE BEYOND REASON

Date: 9-13 June 2016

Venue: Hotel Pullman Bangsar, Kuala Lumpur

Speakers: Dr Peter Tan-Chi & Dr Chew Weng Chee

How do you explain a love that no words can explain? What will happen if you let it touch your heart? God loves you not because you're perfect, but because you are who you are. Come and be restored by His divine love! Speak His love language and transform the world around us!

More info on cost & registration coming soon!



B

Grace Bookstore will reopen on 17 January 2016 (Sunday) at GI L2 and GII L1. Operation hours are Sundays 10.45 - 11.45 am and 12.30 - 1.30 pm.

A variety of books and resources are available for your reading, and spiritual enrichment. Do visit the bookstore and get materials that can encourage and strengthen your faith, devotion, and journey with God.



GIADMIN OFFICE CLOSED FOR STAFF RETREAT 2016

Please note the church staff will be away from 18 to 20 January 2016 for a staff retreat. The Admin Office will be closed. For enquiries & emergencies, please contact Twinkle Fan (Ms), at DID 64100803. We apologize for any inconvenience caused.

Cafe Ministry @ GI is looking for members willing to serve on Sundays. Those interested can contact Ps Wai Ching at 91858025 or Sis Angela Koh at 96252226.

05 CHURCHWIDE

FEATURED STAFF — **PATRICK LEE** —

My name is Patrick Lee (李向阳传道), 49 years old. I'm from Hong Kong and have been living in Singapore for about 25 years. I have been attending services at Grace Assembly ever since. In the past, I worked in computer-related industry for 26 years. Five years ago, God called me to serve full-time, I thank God I can serve in Grace Assembly of God - Mandarin ministry.

My wife is Angel Chiu (赵惠莲), she was from Hong Kong and we are married for 26 years. By God's grace, He has given us two lovely daughters. My eldest daughter is Carise Lee (李恩怡) (18), enrolled first year of Singapore Polytechnic, my younger girl is Ariel Lee (李靖怡) (15), studying in Nanhua High School. My two daughters are miracles, gifts from God!

My spiritual growth took place in Grace Assembly, 25 years of being led and equipped by God and church pastors. Hence, I can go on to serve God full-time today. When I look back, it is really God's great plan from the start. Therefore, Grace Assembly is like my second family.



I'm primarily serving in the Chinese Mandarin and Cantonese ministries. For the past five years, I'm also in another major ministry – the pioneering community work. We have been involved in a lot of care-giving through community activities. Some activities are one off, some are still on-going in several communities. For example, the seniors' ministry in Holland Village, the elderly ministry in Bukit Batok, Lengkok Bahru and Henderson.

Community Outreach allows us to have more opportunities to come into contact with the residents, to build better relationships with them, to care for them and understand their true needs. We share with them about our own lives and about the love of God. In the coming days, I hope to see more Gracians willing to sacrifice their time, to participate in more community outreach activities. Through God's love, we can bring more residents to church, and into the kingdom of God. I am looking forward to see residents of these communities coming to accept Jesus as Lord of their lives!

Full-time ministry is a challenge, but in these five years, I am glad to see how God has opened and is still opening ways for me to serve and contribute. I see more and more Gracians becoming involved in community outreach work, and even the older people are willing to serve together in the communities. I really thank God for them.

I pray that Grace Assembly and Gracians can become a blessing to the people around.

God bless you! Ps Patrick Lee Community Pastor – Chinese ministries

POSITION AVAILABLE

The Church is looking for someone who has the passion to serve and join the administrative team as:

HR & ADMIN MANAGER

Key Responsibilities

- Manage a full spectrum of human resource functions covering manpower planning, recruitment and selection, compensation and benefits, training & development and performance management
- Review, recommend and facilitate the implementation of HR & administrative policies, procedures and processes
- Process payroll & prepare monthly salary journal, CPF/ IR8A e-submission
- Oversee the administrative functions in the Church office.

Requirements

- Diploma or Bachelor degree in HR management or equivalent
- At least 5 years of HR/Admin experience
- Analytical, meticulous and resourceful
- Familiar with Singapore Employment Act and HR best practices
 Good communication, interpersonal and organizational skills

Interested applicants are invited to submit detailed resume indicating work experience, current and expected salaries and a recent photograph to:

Grace Assembly of God 355 Tanglin Road Singapore 247960

Or email to sally.chow@graceaog.org

06 GRACE MISSIONS



THE GREAT COMPASSION

MISSITUS

Before the Great Commission, there was the Great Compassion.

John 3:16 says "for God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son..." In the scriptures, prior to each miracle or healing that Jesus did, it was written that Jesus looked upon the people and his heart was filled with compassion. In Mark 1:41, some Bible translators even went on to say that Jesus was "indignant" — which means a feeling of being angered by unfair treatment.

Our Lord is full of compassion and mercy. Jesus looks at us today with compassion in his eyes — that even when we do things that sinned against God, his heart is still compassionate towards us. When we cry out to Jesus, he will answer us.

If we as believers are to grow to become more Christ-like in our speech and actions, we ought to grow in our compassion as we mature in walk with the Lord. The Bible says in Colossians 3:12 that as God's chosen people, we are to clothe ourselves with compassion. That is a hallmark of being a follower of Jesus Christ.

Love and Compassion work hand-in-glove with one another. They cannot be separated. We cannot say that we love one another when we do not have compassion for the lost. Similarly we cannot say that we have compassion but yet do not love our brother who is different from us.

We cannot minister without compassion, but God gives compassion. Ask the Lord for a love for the people you minister to. Ask God to flood your heart with love for the people of the world. We cannot minister without God first touching our hearts. God needs to meet with us today.

With a total of 362 unique missions trippers going for 95 missions trips in 2015, we have achieved much in Grace Missions. This year, in 2016, let us go one step further. Let us do missions with compassion. Let us grow in our compassion for those who do not yet know Jesus. It is from the bedrock of compassion that the Gifts of the Spirit will flow and where Signs and Wonders start to happen.

Blessings, **Matthew Tan** Missions Awareness

CONFERENCE 2016 Weekend of 23 - 24 January

FEATURED MISSIONS WORKER CHRISTY CHEW

163 years ago, Interserve was founded by two ordinary home-makers who prayed and countered social taboos in order to bring hope to the suffering and marginalised. Through their obedience to God, they started an international movement that continue to inspire people today to do what they had done — to obey God in a courageous manner.

My husband and I were among those who decided to obey the call of God upon our lives. In 2007, the time came for us to be sent out to the Middle East! There were no literal dream or vision, no audible voice called out to us. Just simple statistics that shouted into our faces and we felt the cry of injustice and disproportionate resources given to those people. We felt that we should seriously do something about it.

Through Interserve, we served in the Middle East from 2007 to 2013, and found ourselves in the middle of the Arab Spring. Having lived among one of the world's neediest people, in a turbulent time filled with bountiful opportunities, we returned to Singapore in June 2013 to sound the clarion call for the Church of Singapore to play our role in the least served communities especially that of the Arab world.

Right now, my husband and I are based in Singapore. I am now serving as National Director of Interserve Singapore. It has been an exciting journey witnessing God calling out courageous people, young and old, coming to serve the neediest people through Interserve.

"Christy, God is calling me to Central Asia (war-torn nation). Help me."

"Christy, God is calling me to Syria. Help me."

"Christy, I'm 69. Am I too old to serve refugees?"

These are samples of questions that were posed to me and it thrills me to no end to be able to help them fulfil their calling in Christ. I am awe-struck and humbled by the heart of these people who we are able to send out with the help of their own churches.

In closing, we praise the Lord that in July 2015, baby Emmaus was born to my husband and I ... after 13 years of marriage! The name Emmaus was chosen because it was a location that traced backed to modern day West Bank in the Palestinian territories. That is where our heart is, in the Middle East. It is our prayer that baby Emmaus, would grow up to serve the least in these places.

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." - Matthew 25:40

It is my prayer that the Holy Spirit would stir your heart to serve 'the least of these' in the nations and wherever you are.

Lim Nan, Christy Chew and baby Emmaus christylim@interserve.org.sg

MISSIONS TRIP SCHEDULE 2016

BANGLADESH

01 - 11 December

INDIA

24 - 29 August (Medical Camp, Hyderabad) 25 November - 03 December (Orissa)

ASSAM 19 - 24 March

WEST BENGAL 06 - 12 September

BHUTAN 01 - 06 May NEPAL

24 September - 01 October (Medical Camps) 18 - 24 November

SRI LANKA 10 - 20 June 15 - 28 September

VIETNAM

15 - 22 March 05 - 11 July 10 - 17 October 26 December - 02 January

MYANMAR 25 - 31 March

05 - 10 October 30 November - 05 December

CAMBODIA

23 - 28 March 29 April - 05 May 03 - 07 October 18 - 24 November 02 - 07 December

INDONESIA

11 March

22 April

26 - 30 May (East Java)
23 - 28 June (West Kalimantan)
30 - 05 July (West Kalimantan)
12 - 19 July (South Sulawesi)
23 - 28 August (Pekanbaru)
09 - 14 December (Pekanbaru)

RIAU ISLANDS, INDONESIA

BATAM

27 - 28 August 28 - 30 October 26 - 27 November

13 May

26 August

13 October

KARIMUN

03 - 04 December

30 April - 01 May

TG. PINANG 16 - 17 April

13 - 14 August 10 - 11 December

TG. UBAN 05 - 06 March 07 - 08 May

01 - 02 October

Due to the availability of flights and other unpredictable circumstances, these dates are tentative. Do send an email to matthew.tan@graceaog.org for more enquiries about Grace Missions or her missions trips.





08 FAMILY LIFE @ GRACE _



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

If you need to make counselling appointment, please contact: **Pastor Benjamin Wong 9066-2994 OR Chang-Goh Song Eng 6801-0730** All counselling sessions are strictly private and confidential

2016 Family KAISU Trip

Date: 12 March 2016

As we return and settle into our new building at Tanglin Road, we should not be too preoccupied with enjoying the facilities and having a prime piece of land. Statistics show that marriages and families continue to break down at an alarming rate. We cannot and must not just sit and watch these numbers increase. As a church, we must rise up and reclaim our families.

With its launch, Family Life@Grace has had a good year in 2015, and we are pleased to inform you that in 2016, we have greater plans with greater expectations from God!

MARRIED LIFE

We will most likely be having one **Lovers' Retreat** in August 2016. Do look out for it and sign up early to avoid disappointment. We will be having **Training for Marriage Partners to conduct Marriage Preparation & Discipleship Program (MPDP)**. Equip ourselves to equip others. In Family Life@Grace, we believe in supporting each other to build lasting relationships. Two **Marriage Partner Training-cum-Support sessions** will be heading your way in 2016.

PARENTING LIFE

There is a saying, "it takes a village to raise a child". We, at Family Life@Grace believe that a strong church can help raise godly children. Many exciting programmes will be coming for both parents and children. Look out for **Missions trips** which families may take part in together. We have had our Alpha Programme and now, we are ready to kick off the **Alpha Parenting course**.

Faith Begins at Home, a special family programme conducted by our members for our members, will be in March. In conjunction with the inaugural session of this family programme, we will be organising a funfilled **one day JB Outing** for our families, including visiting a 3D Trick Art Gallery, and an indoor Trampoline Park (see advertisement).

Fathers, do not miss this great opportunity. A special camp in August – **Ah Pa and I Go Camping**. It is not just about bringing home the bacon, it is about eating the bacon together with our children.

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Family Life@Grace is a ministry to serve <u>all families</u> in Grace Assembly and we are constantly adding new initiatives to ensure that no one gets left behind. We are pleased to announce that we will be starting a **Single Parents support group** in 2016 to help and empower all our single parents. Yes, we are a family, and family means no one gets left behind.

LIFE RESOURCES

To all book lovers, this is something which will excite you. The **Library** will be opening in GI very soon. Not just books but DVDs, CDs and all forms of resources will be made available to everyone who needs to learn and re-learn on how best to meet the needs of our families.

RESTORED LIFE

To kick start the new year, Wholeness Ministry will have our first **Restoring The Foundations (RTF) Teaching session on 'Jealousy'** in January **and the Restored to Wholeness (RTW) seminar** in February. We are definitely more than conquerors and victors in Christ. We do not necessarily need to have problems to seek ministering. It can be a pure desire of wanting to be right with God, and allowing Him to show us what He wants to do in our lives. We are wonderfully and fearfully made in the image of God. Arise and lead the liberated and victorious Christian Life!

Family Life@Grace focuses on Christ. We want to depend on the Word of God for directions in our lives. When Christ is the centre of husband-wife relationships, and of parent-child relationships, it will no longer be about 'me' but 'we'. Although we cannot find solutions to all the challenges we face in our families, Family Life@Grace hopes to create channels through which we can support and influence one another. As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another (Proverbs 27:17).

Look out for the Family Life@Grace booth on 17 January 2016. Come and join us!

JANUARY 2016

This is a new column where we feature families in Grace Assembly. Families who have chosen the road less travelled, families who have made the choice to rise above their circumstances, families who have chosen to lead the unconventional lives

A Family in Grace



Family Life@Grace caught up with James, who attends Grace I, who chose to go into full-time ministry. Not one but both husband and wife, heard the call from God and stepped out in faith. This is a family who is constantly taking every opportunity given to them, to serve God. As this interview was being conducted, James' elder son, Jo-Hann, had just returned from a missions trip in Ipoh and his wife, Joan and youngest son, Jo-Yang, were in Sri Lanka doing missions work.

FLG – Family Life@Grace **J** - James

FLG: Tell us something about yourself.

- J: I am James Lee, being so blessed to be married to my dearest wife, Joan. Both of us are serving in Singapore Youth For Christ (SYFC). God has blessed us with 3 very lovely children, Jo-Lea (17), Jo-Hann (15) and Jo-Yang (11). We live in a 4-room HDB flat near GI.
- **FLG:** James, why do you do what you do? In Singapore, everyone is always wanting to live in a bigger house, have a bigger car, always wanting more. What made you choose to do things differently?
- J: I was volunteering with SYFC since 1986. My passion and burden for the work of youth evangelism grew over the years. I reckon that I ought to learn to give my whole life to God, besides just giving my time and money, for He alone is worthy.

Everyone has a mantra, I have a verse which I call my 'life verse' which I felt God has put in my heart - Acts 20:24 " But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the gospel of the grace of God." Hence, I decided to step into full-time with SYFC in 1995 after my contract ended with RSAF.

FLG: That's 20 years in ministry. Were there challenges you faced?

J: Sure, we are all human. Once in a while, my sinful nature craving for more, would come knocking at my door. In those moments, I am thankful that God reminded me to learn to be thankful by counting His blessings in my life rather than complaining what I don't have.

For example, I am very thankful to be able to have a car. This is very essential in my ministry work.

As staff of SYFC, my wife and I have learned to walk by faith and not by sight as we are expected to participate in the Personal Support Scheme. SYFC is a non-profit organization. This scheme encourages every staff to raise their monthly salary and employer's CPF contribution. We have to approach people to support us. This is not an easy thing to do, to ask people for money for our salary, but God has been very faithful, we have lack of nothing.

As we have three school-going children, my wife and I are learning to trust God for His provision for our children's higher education in future as God enables them to.

- **FLG:** Could you share with us, what more do you wish you could do for your family?
- J: I long to be able to bring my family to the USA or Europe on holiday, without needing to worry about not having enough money. Not able to provide these, I strived to provide what I could, to be the best godly husband to my wife, and a loving and exemplary father to my children. To fear God more and to entrust my family to Him.

FLG: What do you count as your victories?

- J: Knowing Jesus as my ultimate Saviour and Lord. Not that I choose Him but He has chosen me and graciously called me into His service! He is the one who provided me with my beloved wife, gave us our lovely children. They are just not lovely children but also very understanding and frugal. They do not demand much from us.
- **FLG:** How has God played a part in this extraordinary journey of your family?

J: He has played a BIG part. He has proven Himself faithful even when we were faithless. He has

- surrounded us with good godly friends who are there to admonish and to spur us on.
- FLG: In affluent Singapore, everyone is striving to have more, yet you and your family has chosen this very unconventional way, what do you wish to tell

We cannot live by bread alone, to live and finish strong in this life, we need to know and use His Word to direct us. Without God, we are really nothing.

- way, what do you wish to tell people in Grace?
- J: Remember not only to rely on our own ability and intelligence when leading our family. Godly parents may not necessarily bring about godly children and ungodly parents may not necessarily bring about ungodly children; we must recognise that we need to be fervent in prayer and to depend on His grace upon our lives. We cannot live by bread alone. To live and finish strong in this life, we need to know His word and use them to direct us. Without God, we really are nothing.

If you know of any extraordinary family or you are an extraordinary family and would like to bless others with your story, please write in to familylifegrace@gmail.com

Celebration Of Marriage at GI

On 15 Nov 2015, 107 couples renewed their vows before God and families at Grace I. What did the event mean to them ...



Benny and Esther Lau (Married for 37 years)

It was an awesome experience to strengthen our matrimonial bonds.

Yong Hean and Jenny Lai (Married for 16 years)

I invited my sisters and my sister-in-law to attend the ceremony. I invited my brother-in-law who was our matchmaker but unfortunately, he couldn't come because he is suffering from depression for the last three years. My sister-in-law wanted to come and witness what marriage vows renewal meant. She tried to get her husband to come but he wouldn't. She shared that it is so true that in sickness and in health, she has to hold (to him) till death do them part. She agreed with Pastor Calvin Lee's message that you stick with the same model (joke about Ford Motor - Ford did well because they stuck to just one model) and that is the way to go.

Paul and Revelina (Married for 10 years)

The event is a public commitment about the importance of our marriage. It shows marriage is a serious lifelong commitment that takes effort, time, money and sacrifice to maintain and grow. Marriage can also be fun, romantic and makes you want to go home to be with your wife and children every day.

Benny Lim and Stephenie Tai (Married for 18 years)

It was a lovely reaffirmation of vows not just for us but also our parents, who have been married for 47 years. It touches our hearts to also share this special moment with all our other 170 couples from Grace Assembly and how apt for the occasion to be held in our newly renovated church.

Derrick and Christal Sim (Married for 6 years)

We were blessed to participate in this celebration of marriages as this has allowed us to treasure our relationship even more. As for our family, it's a strong symbol of the everlasting love of our God and always to have Christ as the centre of our love. Our guests were glad to see that Grace Assembly values marriages and keeping abreast of our love lives as a basic foundation of our daily living.

Yang Lik and Shirley Shia (Married for 21 years)

How many of us actually recite our marriage vows again after we got married? So, it was a very meaningful event. It was a time to be reminded that a wedding is for a day, marriage is for a life-time. The church should organise this event on a regular basis, once every three years, perhaps. Couples sometimes need to be nudged, this small part played by the church may be a big part in saving marriages in our society.

RCSS CE SHARES

11 REACH

REACH Community Services Society – the social missions arm of Grace Assembly of God

• DO GOOD. - Social work is about doing good. It is about reaching out, loving and helping others for their betterment.

Why should the Church do good? It is consistent with Scriptures, and is required of us as disciples. Our reward for so doing is the pleasure and approval of the Master.

With good done to them, some of those helped may in the process come to receive salvation in Christ. But conviction of the heart, and redemption of the soul are the works of the Spirit, and the timing is not of our choosing. As we take care of our obedience, God will take care of the conversion, and in His time, it will be accomplished.

• We have a rare but precious platform

There are many charities and volunteer Welfare Organizations (VWOs) in Singapore; each set up to fulfill the aspiration of their founders. The Ministry of Social and Family Development defines a VWO as:

A non-profit organization that provides welfare services and/or services that benefit the community at large.

In other words, it is about doing good, and helping people.

Many charities have religious origins and associations, often with particular religions, and often to specific denominations. However, only just a few VWOs have direct associations with specific churches. REACH Community Services Society (RCSS) is one

Touch Community Services is directly associated with Faith Community Baptist Church, If you go to Touch's website, the first image you see that of Rev Lawrence Khong.

Similarly, Care Community Services Society (CCSS) is closely associated with Trinity Christian Centre. Rev Dominic Yeo is the President and Chairman of CCSS.

New Life Community Services is tied at the hip with Covenant Evangelical Free Church, and their staff sit in the same office, and the mission of the Society clearly articulates the mission to mobilize the Church members to make a difference in the Community.

RCSS is the social mission arm of Grace Assembly. Senior Calvin Lee is Advisor of the Management Committee of RCSS.

Like FCBC, Trinity and Covenant, Grace is one among a handful of churches in Singapore with such a social outreach platform where members can use to penetrate the Community who are currently not accessible directly by the Church with the compassionate love of Christ

In the course of 17 years since RCSS was started, the grace of God has seen RCSS grow to a staff strength of 45, and an annual budget of about \$4 million. Today RCSS operates 4 key services, and spreads out across the community.

So how does RCSS fit into the purpose of Grace Assembly?

First, it brings glory to Christ. While people generally feel good helping others, and often get praises from others for what they do, the primary purpose of doing good isn't to bring glory to oneself, but to have the name of the Lord be lifted up, and have all glory and praises channeled to Him.

Mat 5:16 - In the same way, let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.

Then, doing good is actually commanded of God. It is essential, and a necessary part of authentic Christian living.

1Tim 6: 18-19 - Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Further, when we do good, we carry the love and compassion of Christ to the least, the lost, and the lonely. We are also in obedience to the will of God, and we are deemed to have also expressed the same to the Lord. Matt 25:37-40 - "Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?'

"The King will reply, 'Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me."

• Fulfilling the Missional Call

Now that we know why we do good, lets then explore how it may help the church in fulfilling her missional call.

Light and Salt of the World, Sharing Christ, whether with and without a sermon

It is well that we first reach out to brothers and sisters in the faith. But there are multitudes in the community who for whatever reasons (religions background, social/communal pressures, parental objection etc) cannot come to the church to receive help. For them, the gospel and the Church have to be carried in the hearts of believers and on the feet of disciples spreading out to the communities.

The missional direction of Grace points to "Love God, and Love People". This love of Christ is shared through the contact between those helping, and those being helped. The Gospel comes alive in such. RCSS opens doors to the Community for Grace. The gospel can be preached and the love of Christ shared, often times without the explicit preaching of a sermon. The Good Samaritan did just that (Luke 10:28-27). The Lord asked that we do likewise.

It is required of us to love our neighbours always as such in themselves preach Christ, and provide the fertile ground to nurture the planted seeds. Conviction by the Spirit, will come in His time.

• Give – Time, Talent and Treasures

Whether it is our time, our talent, or our treasures, when surrendered into the hands of the Master, He can make miracles before our eyes.

Donations of Cash and other forms of financial support from Grace Members allow RCSS to act and reach out to the community on behalf of Grace Assembly. Giving of our time and our talents, volunteering, and helping others hands-on executing the activities organized by RCSS, enable Grace members to grow, and to experience the thrill of being used by the Lord, seeing the hand of God creating positive impacts in the lives of others. It grows our faith as we experience God first hand. End of the day, one can give of all three.

Individuals, and families can partner RCSS to reach the Community, and we can start with our neighbours. But the key vehicle for sustainable outreach is the collaboration between RCSS and the Grace Communities ministries.

Love comes alive

In a way the 45 fulltime RCSS staff are like scaffolders. In their own they can create some impact, but not very much. But they can build a large "stage". And on this platform, Grace Assembly, with a cast of 4500, can live out the "Drama of Redemption". The Community watching that play cannot help but know that "God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life". Some will be brought into the Kingdom.

Ho Siew Cheong

Chief Executive REACH Community Services Society (RCSS)

REACH BURSARY AWARDS 2016

REACH Bursary and Mentoring Programme is in its 8th year running and it has helped countless low-income families by relieving financial stress when it comes to school-related expenses. REACH Bursary and Mentoring Programme is unique because the bursary awards are handed out to applicants based on potential instead of merit. It is unconventional as most bursary awards are given to needy students who excel in studies while for REACH, the bursary awards are given to needy students who require help in their studies.

The bursary award is given in two parts – once at the commencement of the Bursary and Mentoring Programme and once at their graduation from the programme. Recipients of the bursary award will have to go through the mentoring programme before they can graduate and receive the second part of the award.

This programme has allowed many beneficiaries to engage in fruitful and enriching activities such as baking, learning how to play the drums, canvas painting and scrapbooking instead of spending their time outside school unwisely or mixing with the wrong company of friends. There are also dedicated programmes for the beneficiaries during the June and December holidays, highlights include Cyber-wellness workshops, photography workshops. The greatest impact of this programme is that it allows mentors and mentees to get on a journey together, be it in academics or life skills. Mentees get the chance to learn from the lives of their mentors and be positively influenced in their thoughts, speech and behaviour.

Beneficiary Nurain expressed that she would like to join the REACH Bursary and Mentoring Programme again in the coming year because she has improved so much in her studies and made many good friends through the programme this year.

In 2015, up to 57 recipients received a total of \$17,000 through the bursary award. Through the generous donations and support from Grace Assembly of God, it has enabled this extraordinary endeavour to continue to bless others. Spurred by the verse in Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save the lost." - we invite Gracians to partner us to impact lives of youths who sometimes have fallen through the normal social safety nets.

REACH Bursary Award 2016

Venue : Hong Kah North Community Centre Date : 16 January 2016 (Saturday) Time : 9 am to 1 pm





Dedication of REACH Senior Centre

30 January 2016, 9am Block 26B Jalan Membina #01-188 Singapore 165026

NURTURE 2.0 AND PROJECT ESPERANZA 2016

REACH Family Service Centre is looking for committed volunteers for Nurture 2.0 and Project Esperanza 2016, an initiative that aims to provide a positive learning environment to progress in their academic performance.

If you are:

- Open to teaching English and Mathematics for both Primary and Secondary levels
- Must be passionate about teaching children and creative in educating
- > Experience in volunteering/tutoring is an advantage though not necessary
- Must be able to commit to the programme period (January 2016 onwards)

Training will be provided. Please contact Nina Catrina at 6801 0718 for more information and/or sign-up!

Volunteering opportunity: Mentor and Tutor

REACH Youth is always on the lookout for dedicated volunteers who are passionate about youth work. If you are a tertiary student, young adult, teacher or tutor and would like to volunteer with us, we want you!

13 MINISTRIES

INTRODUCING LAY MINISTERS



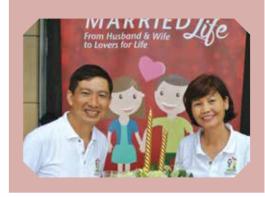
PATRICK TOH

Patrick is a Lay Minister for **GIB** Community and Support Ministry. He is a Licensed AG Minister, married to Jenny. By faith, he has been full-time serving the Lord since retiring from the marketplace in January 2010.

SOON KIM TAT

As Grace Missions Coordinator for ASEAN, Kim Tat's role is to help strategize and coordinate the church's mission thrusts in these countries - Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar and Vietnam. To spearhead our mission strategy of "Planting Churches, Propelling People and Preparing Leaders", as a church, Grace Assembly is really blessed to have very dedicated and passionate Country Directors and pastors for ASEAN (Ps Wai Cheng, Ps Peck Yin, Ps Bee Ngor, Bro Caleb Khoo and Ps Andy). It's such a privilege to see them in action in the mission

> field, leading teams, training local leaders and ministering to the local community.





RONALD SEET

Ronald served as a full time pastor for a third of his working life. Currently a businessman right in the heart of commerce. This unique mix has enabled him to be an effective link between business people and the church.

Together with his wife June, they have utilized their financial planning business as a platform to impact and minister to staff and clients.

In his new role, he hopes to accelerate and multiply this process.

WONG NGAR NING

Thank God for leading Ngar Ning to serve the community in Holland Village. Although encountered many challenges, her team members and herself often experienced help from God. The grace of our Lord is indeed sufficient for all of them.

In the coming days, she is very convinced God will definitely continue to increase and strengthen the team members to accomplish the mission He has given them.







ISAAC CHAN

Isaac serves as a Regional Leader, overseeing the CGs in Teck Whye, Chua Chu Kang and Yew Tee regions under GII Mandarin. Currently pursuing a Master in Divinity at TCA College on part-time basis. Enjoys meeting people of all ages. Holds a master degree in business administration and currently working in MediaCorp. Married to Rachel Tan with three lovely children, Beryl, Nasya and Havel.



ROGER TAN

Roger serves as a lay minister with Grace Missions. Graduated from the School of Ministries (Tung Ling Bible College) in 1997 and the School of Biblical Studies (Youth With A Mission YWAM) in 2014. Experienced the liberating power of the Word of God, convinced that all lives can be transformed and refreshed by the Word! His prayer and desire is to pass on what he has learnt. Thanks God for putting His love for Indonesia in his heart.

ROSITA CRISTOBAL

Ps Rosita is involved in the pastoral ministry for both GI and GII in Grace Filipino Ministry. She provides spiritual leadership to members and furthering the work of the ministry, while leading them into a growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. She is truly grateful to God and to Grace Assembly for bestowing this opportunity to serve Him and His people. It is her deepest desire to see more Filipinos more like Jesus and by achieving so, may God receive all the glory, honour and praise.



TAN KOK LIN

Over the years, Kok Lin has discovered a growing passion for God's Word. It is therefore his desire to live out Ezra 7:10 'to seek God's word, to do it, and to teach it'. With that, he is truly grateful and humbled to be given this opportunity to serve in the area of teaching and preaching.



14 CHINESE MINISTRIES

中文青成年事工

中文青成年事工是在华语堂崇拜聚会的发展和需要上成立 的。这是在星期天的崇拜聚会之外,我们专门为参与中文聚 会的青成年开设的小组。借着彼此间的互动与团契,在整全 的活动中发展出长久而坚定的关系,一起经历生命中的各个 阶段!这个小组让青成年发觉并表现其领导能力,在堂会



中参与服侍,亦能在小组 中应用其智慧和能力, 亲身经历这位又真又活 的神!

小组中除了本地的青成 年,也有来自不同国家 的青成年的加入,如马 来西亚、中国、台湾。 我们在这结合了多样

文化背景下的团 契为整个小组增 加了不一样的气 氛与色彩,我们为 神让我们聚集在一 起并融入在其中而 感谢祂!小组的例 常团契形式有敬拜 赞美、生活分享、 小组查经和信息分享。此 外,我们也一起安排不同节 目,例如:特别讲座、外出 聚餐、圣诞派对等。借着 这些活动,使小组的成员 们能够更加熟络,并有更 多接触新朋友的机会。



青成年小组不仅为讲华语的青成年信徒之间提供了很好的交流平台,同时也使来到当中的非信徒认识基督,让他们更好地融入其中。今年,2016年,我们希望通过更有针对性的分享与活动增强小组的凝聚力和对神对人的热情,增强服侍主的心,在主里一同团契与成长。当我们同心在一起的时候,就能成为一个神所重用的团队!我们为此而努力并感到兴奋,期待神透过我们做更奇妙美好的事!我们展望未来几年里,青成年小组能发展成团契聚会的模式。

在此,我们诚挚邀请所有年龄介于19-35岁之间的青成年朋友加入我们,与我们一同团契。小组时间为每个星期六傍晚7点30分,地点在恩典二 [1 Bukit Batok West Ave 4, Singapore 659125],二楼的"赞美"课室。若您有兴趣知道更多详情,可联系王紫璇姐妹87000603询问。

我们期待并欢迎您的加入!



15 SERVICES @ GRACE ASSEMBLY _

GRACE SERVICES

GRACE I SERVICES: 355 Tanglin Road Singapore 247960

Saturday 1.30 pm HOKKIEN SERVICE	GALILEE	L <mark>E</mark> VEL 1
Saturday 5 pm YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG PROFESSIONALS (YAYP) SERVICE CANTONESE SERVICE ELEVATE @ R-AGE YOUTH (14-19 YRS OLD)	BETHEL GALILEE EMMAUS	LEVEL 3 LEVEL 1 LEVEL 3
Sunday 9 am ENGLISH SERVICE MANDARIN SERVICE SHINE @ GRACE KIDS (7-10 YRS OLD) SPARKLE @ GRACE KIDS (3-6 YRS OLD)	BETHEL GALILEE EDEN ZION	LEVEL 3 LEVEL 1 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 5
Sunday 11.15 am ENGLISH SERVICE FILIPINO SERVICE EMERGE @ R-AGE YOUTH (11-13 YRS OLD) SHINE @ GRACE KIDS (7-10 YRS OLD) SPARKLE @ GRACE KIDS (3-6 YRS OLD)	BETHEL GALILEE EMMAUS EDEN ZION	LEVEL 3 LEVEL 1 LEVEL 3 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 5
Sunday 5 pm KHUSH KHABRI FELLOWSHIP	EMMAUS	LEVEL 3
GRACE II SERVICES: 1 Bukit Batok West Ave 4 Singapore 65	59125	
Saturday 2 pm ELEVATE @ R-AGE YOUTH (13-19 YRS OLD)	CHAPEL	LEVEL 4
Sunday 9 am ENGLISH SERVICE MANDARIN SERVICE SHINE @ GRACE KIDS (7-12 YRS OLD) SPARKLE @ GRACE KIDS (3-6 YRS OLD)	CHAPEL SANCTUARY LOVE KINDNESS	LEVEL 4 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 4
Sunday 11.15 am ENGLISH SERVICE HOKKIEN SERVICE SHINE @ GRACE KIDS (7-12 YRS OLD) SPARKLE @ GRACE KIDS (3-6 YRS OLD)	SANCTUARY CHAPEL LOVE KINDNESS	LEVEL 2 LEVEL 4 LEVEL 2 LEVEL 4
Sunday 1.30 pm FILIPINO SERVICE	CHAPEL	LEVEL 4

J333

Every Wednesday, 7.30 pm, GI GALILEE, LEVEL 1

GRACE ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Grace I: 355 Tanglin Road Singapore 247960

Office hours: 9am-6pm (Mon-Fri), 8.30am-1.30pm (Sun)

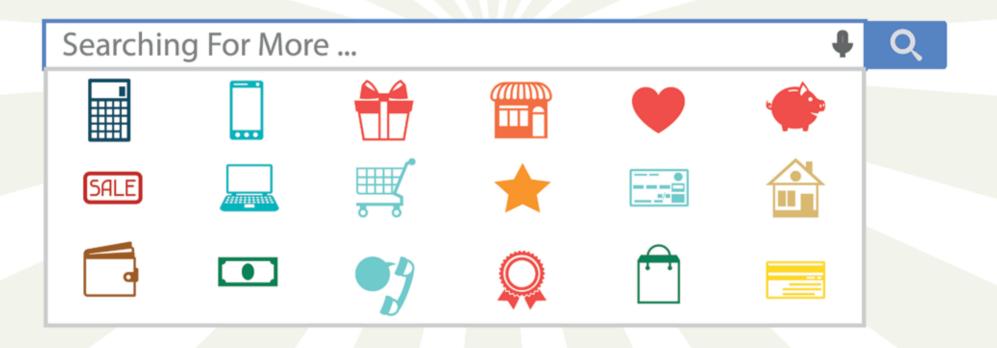
Grace II: 1 Bukit Batok West Avenue 4 Singapore 659125 Office hours: 8.30am-1.30pm (Sun)

For More Information

call (+65) 6410 0800 | visit www.graceaog.org | facebook us www.facebook.com/graceaogsingapore

GOT TESTIMONIES, SUGGESTIONS, FEEDBACK? email us at comms@graceaog.org





Find out at The Alpha Course

The Alpha Course is specially for pre-believers, unchurched and new believers to explore Christianity. Invite them for the introduction talk! Invitation cards will be placed at the posters and booths.

Talk: Is There More To Life Than This

Date : 26 February 2016 Venue : GI Time : 7pm

*The Children Alpha will also be conducted at the same timing for ages 10-12.

Find out more and register at alpha.graceaog.org

You're Invited

BOOTHS ARE OPEN FOR:

RECRUITMENT OF HELPERS 2/3 & 9/10 JAN

RECRUITMENT OF GUESTS 30/31 JAN, 13/14 & 20/21 FEB