

Bethesda Newsletter



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Editorial

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Many of us look forward to each new issue of the Bethesda Newsletter to read the latest articles and to keep abreast of happenings in the assembly. But how many of us look at issues from previous years? I had such an opportunity recently, to forage through past issues of newsletters and annual reports. What struck me as I poured through these old documents was how much the Lord has done in our midst, blessing our position and work as a local assembly, and moving the lives of individuals.

The psalmist remembered the deeds of the Lord and the wonders of His works, and meditated on them (Psa 77:11-12). How often do we look back, both individually and collectively as an assembly, to recall and recount the work and blessings of the Lord? Such recollections are an undeniably essential aspect of our spiritual life.

Our recent Thanksgiving Service on 13 August was one such occasion for us as an assembly to recall the journey of lease renewal and renovations of the Ang Mo Kio building, a journey which had started as early as 2008 with the formation of the A & A committee.

The Lord's work and leading was evident throughout the entire journey, and in the overcoming of

the many obstacles the assembly faced in this work, as He moved the hearts and minds of believers as well as those in authority. How needful and fitting it is for us to remember His wonders and give thanks!

The psalmist also resolved to tell future generations about the deeds of the Lord, His power and the wonders He has done, so that they would in turn tell their children and succeeding generations to put their trust in God, not forget His deeds, and keep His commands (Psa 78:4-7). Likewise, it is needful for us to document our history as an assembly, so that future generations of believers will be able to glimpse the Lord's unchanging faithfulness, how He has worked in our midst in this generation; so that they will be inspired and their faith will be strengthened.

It is with this intention that the assembly leadership commissioned another history book to document key events, meetings and ministries between the years 2010 to 2015. This resulted in the book, "Great is His Faithfulness - The Lord's work in Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio and Depot Walk)", which was recently launched.

My personal reflection from my involvement in the work of the

Bethesda Newsletter and the recent history book is that human efforts at documenting anything are often at best superficial. The works of the Lord are complete and wonderful, yet the limitations of word and language often prevent us from giving an adequate account of the wonders of His work.

Even King David, the prolific psalmist, had to say that God's wonders were too numerous to count and share (Psa 40:5). What about us? May the Lord help us to never use that as an excuse for not trying our best. Let us continue to encourage and appreciate one another for our efforts to share, be it through conversations, from the pulpit or through writing.

A note from the Editor

A small error was made on the last page of the previous issue. We managed to isolate who it was who made the error. But as believers, it is only right that we forgive and move on.

We wish to thank the many contributors for this issue of the newsletter and all the photographers for providing the wonderful photos. The layout for this issue was done by Dwayne Koh and Jereme Teo, assisted by Jeshu Kum and Ysanne Yeo.

A YEAR LATER

SUSAN
CHAN

How time flies, and is always onward
marching –

It's been a year since our 'homecoming';
Reminiscing, our hearts with thanks overflow
For all the blessings that we know!

Looking forward, moving toward
autonomy –

Let us work together with humility;
Seek the Lord, be quiet and still,
And do His work according to His will.

Wherever we are, let us consider one another,
For we're sisters and we're brothers.

May we all burn bright for Him

So that by our love some soul we might win!

Understanding the Times, Knowing What we Should do

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1 Chronicles 12:23-40 describes the groups of people from the tribes of Israel who went to David at Hebron armed and ready for war, to make him king after King Saul was killed in battle. The groups from the other tribes were bigger, and they were mostly described in military terms as men of valour and experts in war, with descriptions of the weapons they were adept at handling. When it came to the tribe of Issachar, 1 Chronicles 12:32 has this to say:

"And of the children of Issachar, which were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do; the heads of them were two hundred; and all their brethren were at their commandment." (KJV)

The description of these men is interesting: Two hundred men, and all their brethren. They were men who had :

1. Understanding of the times.
2. Knew what Israel ought to do.
3. Had all their brethren at their commandment.

It was a momentous time for Is-

rael, when they needed to know the right thing to do, and the right time to do it. The men of Issachar had the right attributes that were needed then.

They had understanding of the times.

To have understanding involves two things — being able to discern the subject matter, and to have a good grasp of it, so as to be knowledgeable on it.

The people of Issachar were hardworking farmers, who patiently observed the seasons and the weather, who came to understand when and how the winds, the rains and the storms would come, and knew how to respond according to the changing conditions. This was applied knowledge, tested in real life situations.

Issachar understood not just the physical conditions of the land, but also knew about the people of Israel and the peoples in the region. They had understanding of the times: not just the seasons and the physical conditions in their land, but also the social, economic, moral and spiritual state of the people, the

problems that they were facing, and challenges that would come in the future. Today, we call this situational awareness.

They knew what Israel ought to do.

In Jewish tradition, the tribe of Issachar was known not only for their industry and knowledge in farming, but also for their religious scholarship. Jewish religious scholars were either from the tribe of Levi, or from Issachar. Knowledge of the law and the prophets ought to have given them understanding of God's commandments to Israel, His covenants with them, and His dealings with them.

Hence, in 1 Chronicles 12:32, the men of Issachar knew what Israel ought to do, in their time of national upheaval. They looked beyond their tribe's own interests, beyond their profession as farmers, and developed knowledge and convictions concerning all the other tribes of Israel as well. In other words, they were not inward looking, insular, or xenophobic. They saw the big picture for the whole of Israel, and gave their allegiance to David; for they knew with con-

confidence that it was the right time for all of Israel to make David their king.

They had all their brethren at their commandment.

The 200 leaders of Issachar had the complete trust and support of all their brethren. The whole tribe backed them, not with blind obedience, but with spiritual conviction, and with unity, for they all had that same understanding and knowledge, and trusted their representatives who spoke on their behalf.

These men had an impact on the whole of Israel. 1 Chronicles 12:38 tells us that the men who supported David could keep rank (faithfully held their respective places and fulfilled their respective roles in the nation), and came with a perfect heart (whole hearted, committed) to Hebron.

Their purpose was to make David king over all Israel, and all the rest of Israel were also of one heart (united) to make David king.

The spirit of Issachar today

Is the condition of the brethren

of Issachar relevant to us today? Was their disposition and state of heart a gift of God, exclusive to them and exclusive to their age? Can we say that the Issachar spirit is only given to some people, like a spiritual gift, so that those who are not given that gift should not aspire to that condition?

I believe that all believers can and should seek to be like the brethren of Issachar. This means labouring hard to understand what is happening around us, and interpreting the meaning and the importance of events and trends happening around us.

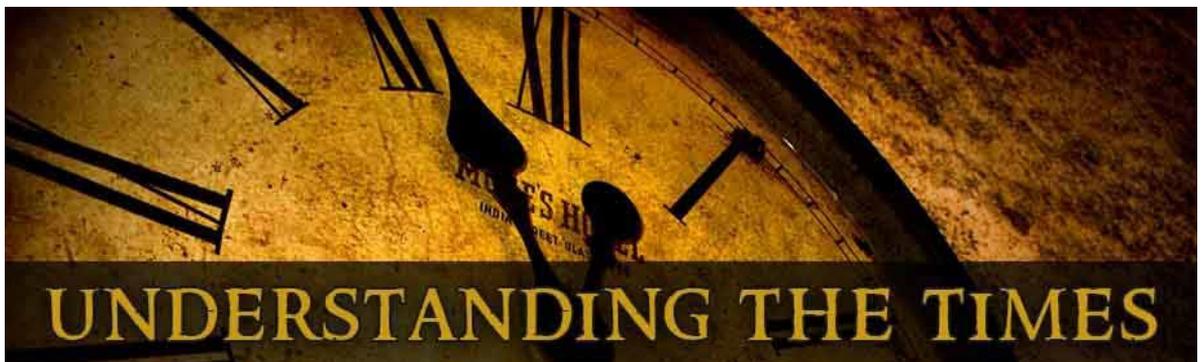
It demands that we overcome our parochial vision, and cast our eyes and our minds beyond our families, our churches, and our workplaces, over to the world outside our gates.

"Let nothing be done through strife or vain glory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others."
Philippians 2:3-4 (KJV)

It means diligently studying the Word of God, so that we can see the world through the lens of the scripture, and discern what the Lord wants us to do in response.

The people of Issachar used their understanding and their knowledge, to put David on the throne of Israel. They were whole hearted and one hearted in their desire and their purpose. Likewise, it behoves us, as individuals and collectively as a church, to diligently acquire and exercise understanding and knowledge of the events in the world around us, and seek always to put the Lord Jesus Christ on the throne of our hearts, and make Him the King of our lives.

**"THEY WERE
WHOLE
HEARTED AND
ONE HEARTED
IN THEIR DESIRE
AND THEIR
PURPOSE"**



UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES

Battle for the Mind: A Biblical Perspective on Mental Health

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(Editor's note: This abridged version is adapted from a Sisters' Ministry talk on Sat 28 May 2016 given by the writer)

Mental illness may affect anyone at any age. We are all potentially, if not currently, either sufferers, or carers of sufferers.

Demons and disease: Spiritual perspective

While advances in medical knowledge has led to less misinformed attribution of mental illness to evil spirits, the possibility of demonisation as a cause should not be discounted, especially for unbelievers with a history of involvement with the occult. For Christians however, the indwelling Holy Spirit precludes any possession (implying ownership) by evil spirits. They might be attacked or oppressed by the devil but not possessed.

Nowhere is the engagement of the mind in a spiritual battle depicted more clearly than in 2 Corinthians 10:3-5. The underlying premise here is that our walk in life involves a war. This arises from the fact that Satan seeks to disrupt

those who are saved and separated to God.

Dark night of the soul: Sufferer's perspective

Reading familiar Scriptures through the lens of sufferers helps articulate their anguish. Psalm 69:20 writes: "Reproach has broken my heart, and I am full of heaviness; I looked for someone to take pity, but there was none; and for comforters, but I found none." Three commonly felt emotions are expressed in this one verse:

- Stigma — reproach, scorn, shame.
- Sadness — heart-broken, full of heaviness.
- Solitariness — no one to

pity or comfort; a solitariness not of space (when no one is around) but of spirit (feeling alone even when surrounded by people).

Psalm 142 is a veritable psalm of the mentally afflicted. Verses 2 and 3 say that it is always best to tell God, even pouring out our complaint before Him when troubled and overwhelmed in spirit. Verse 4 describes the longing for acknowledgment, empathy and care from others. Verse 5 assures that God is our unfailing refuge even if there is no other. Verses 6 and 7 describe the crippling sense of being down in spirit (brought very low) and bound in spirit (as in a prison).

One of the dilemmas faced



28 May Sisters' Ministry talk on 'Battle for the Mind'

is that of disclosure: should I suffer in silence, or share with others and risk the stigma that comes with it? A sensible balance is to tell on a need basis.

Just as each person is unique, no two cases of mental illness are identical. A sufferer should not be defined by the medical label for his condition. Behind the condition and confusion others see, there is a special, creative, sensitive and responsive person.

We often neglect or forget the basic relation between the physiological (functioning of the body) and the psychological (functioning of the mind). Regular physical exercise, meaningful work, and interacting with others will often help. So will simply getting outdoors, where daylight dispels the dark night.

Who cares? Succourer's perspective

A succourer is someone who gives help in times of need or distress. The need for carers extends beyond medical professionals and family members. An old African adage says, "It takes a village to raise a child". Likewise, it takes a church to care for a sufferer. 10% of the population is a fairly conservative estimate of people who will be affected by mental illness at some point in life. 1 in 10 means 50

sufferers in a church of 500. The church as an extended family of God can be the most effective environment for the long-term care and recovery of sufferers, through love and acceptance.

If dealing with difficult people is a challenge, helping sufferers of mental illness amplifies the challenge many times. It requires all the Christian graces one can summon, but it is good training for growing in grace.

James 1:19 is a helpful guide for carers. We may not know what to say or nothing we say may seem right or helpful. Say less; listen more. Listen beyond words to feelings: listen not just to what someone is saying, but listen for what he is feeling. Remember that while a sufferer's speech or behaviour may appear irrational to others, it is entirely rational within his frame of mind.

"More patience, less patients" was the unforgettable slogan on the back of an ambulance which I once tailgated through slow traffic. 1 Thessalonians 5:14 mentions three different treatments which a carer needs to wisely choose in different situations: warn, comfort and uphold. Common to all is patience. While faith is exercised at a point, patience is exercised over time as a process. 1 Thess 5:16-18 prescribes three 'always attitudes' carers need in their

arsenal at all times:

- v16: rejoice always — Joyful
- v17: pray without ceasing — Prayerful
- v18: in everything give thanks — Thankful

Love is undoubtedly the greatest medicine for those whose need it most. Loving as Jesus did means loving "to the end" (John 13:1). In the great love chapter of 1 Corinthians 13, three things stand out for carers; verse 4: loving involves longsuffering; verse 7: love reaches "all things"; verse 8: love outlives and outlasts everything else.

In good company

Here are three famous heroes of faith who faced mental struggles in their lives, just to remind us that we are in good company as sufferers, succourers or surmounters of mental illness.

- William Cowper (1731-1800), writer of many hymns such as "There is a fountain" and "God moves in mysterious ways", was a lifelong sufferer of mental illness.
- John Newton (1725-1807) who wrote 'Amazing grace' was a converted slave trader turned caring pastor, watching over and working with Cowper as a succourer for life.
- Charles Haddon Spurgeon (1834-1892), the 'prince of

Reflections on BASIC Camp

(Editor's note: Five young people from our assembly visited Sangkhim Canaan School in June 2016, where they conducted a 3-day BASIC Camp. Here in this article, we want to celebrate their work, as three of them share their experiences.)

How they decided to have this camp:

Samuel Ko
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My friends and I had been planning a batch trip to Cambodia, and wanted to visit Sangkhim Canaan School while we were there. Our plans changed when the school's principal, Hort Hor, asked us to conduct a 3-day 2-night camp for the Primary 5 and 6 students. He felt it would be a good opportunity for the students to learn from us, and to experience God in their lives as we had.

So we started planning the

camp. Our idea was to have a combination of our annual Daily Vacation Bible School and Youth Camp, where there were activities and games at night.

The theme for the camp was 'Be A Student In Christ' (BASIC), covering the fundamentals of Christianity — faith, hope, and love. Our theme verse was 1 Timothy 4:12 *"Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity."*

Later, we learnt that this verse was the theme verse for the school. It was written on the walls in Khmer, allowing the children to understand and

recite it more easily during the camp. I believe this was not a coincidence, but instead part of God's beautiful plan.

The camp activities, including life lessons and skits, revolved around the five aspects mentioned in the verse — speech, conduct, love, faith and purity. We wanted the children to understand how they could *set an example* in these aspects. It was our prayer that they would imitate Christ, who set the example for us, and so we chose the camp theme song 'To Be Like Jesus'.

How the camp was carried out:

Jereme Teo
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Our aim for the camp was to teach the children life skills, and to encourage discipleship. Each of us prepared a lesson around a skill we had: computer (Jereme/Joshua), horticulture (Yuhan), physical education (Dwayne), and knots and first aid (Samuel). Each lesson had a Biblical application so the students could see that Christianity encompasses everything they do.

To encourage discipleship, we



Samuel's First Aid lesson



BASIC Camp group photo



Students digging for soil to grow their gingers and sunflower seeds as part of Yuhan's horticulture lesson



Day games



Campfire Night



All the key personnel , L to R : principal Hort Hor, Yuhan, Joshua, Akiko, Kian Huat, Samuel, Jereme, Dwayne

linked the skills to faith, hope and love. For example, for our First Aid lesson conducted by Samuel, we started with the good Samaritan story and linked it to how we can help others in love through the use of first aid.

We did a lot of planning and praying before and during the camp to make sure everything would run smoothly. But there were times when things did not go according to plan. For example, the campfire, which the boys had been looking forward to was cancelled due to rain. We brainstormed new ideas and still made it a memorable camp for the children. Sometimes we wonder why God does certain things (the rain in this case) but as we look back we know that God had a purpose for the rain and we are thankful for His intervention.

Lessons learnt from the camp.

Dwayne Koh
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Physical Education conducted by Dwayne

This was my first time visiting Cambodia and the Sangkhim Canaan School. I had heard good things from friends who had been there before, and so I was excited.

The first lesson I learnt was how humility and teamwork are essential for the unity of a group (Phil 2:3-4). As each of us was given specific lessons to conduct, we all stepped up when it was required of us, while the rest took a break. I will remember to apply this in future whenever I am in any

project group or committee. I also learnt to glorify God in everything I do. Our camp schedule was quite tight; we worked from 6.15 am to 10.30 pm with no breaks in between. Although I did feel tired at times, I knew I was doing God's work and that spurred me on to continue to the finishing line (1 Cor 15:58).

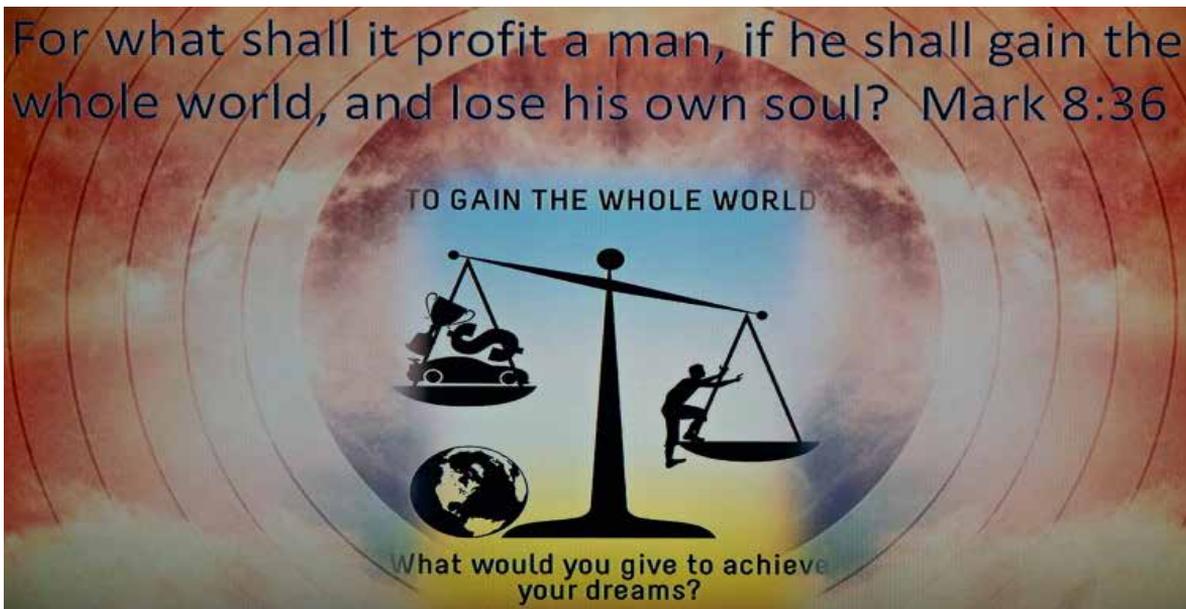
Lastly, I realised the importance of sharing the gospel with children. They are at an age where they are eager for acceptance and love, and so they are more receptive to the gospel. A few children shared during the campfire that they had accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour during the camp. That greatly encouraged me.

I am very thankful for the ministry of Sangkhim Canaan School and pray for another opportunity to serve God there again.



Skit time

Reflections of Assembly Gospel Rally 2016



AGR 2016

Clara Chan
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(Editor's Note: Clara was one of the helpers at the children's programme and was also one of the balloon puppeteers)

It was a privilege to once again be able to help out in the Assembly Gospel Rally children's programme. This year, we made balloon puppets to portray the story of Jonah. Yoke Leng was amazing! Within seconds, she could transform plain looking balloons into different characters. She spent hours teaching us how to make fish, corals, boats and people. I was amazed at how fast everyone learnt how to make the different balloons. Within

a short time, part of the room was transformed into an ocean scene.

It was wonderful to see many unfamiliar faces, including children from our Kindergarten, the tuition programme and the read-to-me programme, attending the rally. The programme for the 3-night rally started with singspiration led by Samuel followed by the puppet show and the messages by Darren Kui and Moritza Lim. The excitement on the children's faces showed that they truly enjoyed the puppet show as well as the rest of the programme.

Being involved in the rally, I was able to experience how the Lord's people were willing to use their gifts to serve Him, to work together (both adults and youth) to bring the gospel to those who are lost. I was also encouraged by the enthusiasm of the children, from singing songs to doing craft. The children reminded me that we too should be so excited to learn and share God's Word.

Tan Jin Song
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(Editor's Note: Jin Song was speaker for all 3 nights of the Assembly Gospel Rally)

Together with Moritza Lim and Darren Kui (both at the children's programme), it

was my privilege to preach the gospel in the main hall, for Bethesda Hall AMK's first gospel rally since our move back. Here are three thoughts I would like to share.

First, I am immensely thankful for the supplication of the saints. During my preparations in crafting the messages for hearers to be convinced of their helpless state and need for the Saviour, I came into an increasing awareness of how weak and futile the words of man are in bringing sinners to light. Yet the Lord has shown me more of what it means that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous avails much!

In the lead-up to the rally, God provided an added measure of peace and grace that only He could give, and cleared potential distractions and complications so that I could



In full concentration mode

focus on discerning His Will for the Word over the three nights.

The second thought, that I pray we all can reflect on, is that each and every one of us was once an enemy of God and alienated from God and the life that is in Him, but we are saved and born again, not of blood, nor of the will of man, but of God, and of God *alone*.

Finally, I have personally found it a challenge as to how the

Gospel should be preached given the potential sensitivities of those whom we invite. In this, I am glad to be reminded through 1 Peter 3:15 that we all should aim to bring forth the Word respectfully, with meekness and fear, and faithfully whenever the chance to share the good news is given to us.

May the Lord continue to use His people to accomplish His work.



Balloon sculpture puppet show



Andrew He and Hannah Abbott in a drama scene

Joe Mathew John
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(Editor's Note: Joe is a member of the Assembly Evangelistic Committee (AEC) and served as a counsellor during the rally)

As described in Scripture, the Gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, and is more precious than any worldly gain. The Gospel message was emphasised and preached throughout AGR2016 with great power and clarity. Renowned Bible teacher AW Pink wrote that "if a church does not evangelise, it will fossilise". Hence it was indeed a great joy to see our church having a great burden for the unsaved.

Though I joined late, I thank the Lord for the opportunity through the AEC to witness

the prayerful planning and strenuous efforts in preparation for the multiple facets of the programme. I have been personally touched to witness the dedication and efforts of fellow believers towards the preparations, attending to very minute details in the midst of their busy schedule. The gospel rally tract distribution was also equally encouraging and allowed members of the assembly to be exercised for the furtherance of the Gospel.

Prayer is the powerhouse of the church and surely the power behind the AGR. Daily dedication of each night's programme to the Lord's hands by the believers emphasised the importance of prayer. It was even more encouraging to see the continuous and

concurrent prayer and supplication by believers while each night's programme was ongoing.

The Gospel was preached with great power and clarity throughout the three nights. The messages invoked me to rethink and appreciate the preciousness of salvation compared to the standards of worldly success. Even as I thank the Lord for His mercy to save my soul from having to perish, I was also reminded of the need to do more to share the message of the Cross.

**"PRAYER IS THE
POWERHOUSE
OF THE
CHURCH"**



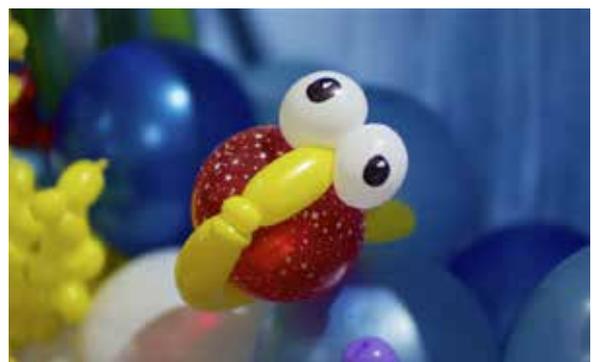
The puppeteers



The work is not complete till every enquiry is answered



Committing everything to the Lord in prayer



Balloon sculpture featured heavily in the children's programme

Tuition Work at Depot Walk

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The tuition teachers at a kayaking bonding session over holidays. Extreme left: Kayaking Instructor

At Depot Walk, tuition is conducted on Saturdays from 2pm to 3pm, before YP. Started in 2015, it is headed by Joel Boon and Jordan Tan. We currently have six tutors who teach English and Mathematics to students from Primary 6 to Secondary 4. The tuition work has two primary aims: First, it is part of the YP's evangelistic effort to reach out to the children and youths in the neighbourhood. Second, it is a platform to ensure the P6 Children's Corner children keep coming to church.

I was asked to serve in this ministry when it started. I agreed without hesitation

because I loved teaching. However, there were times when I was discouraged and disappointed. After 3 weeks of tuition, I had doubts about whether I was ready for this ministry. Although I loved teaching, I was not trained as a teacher and I was unfamiliar with the syllabus as well. Furthermore, I also felt that I had too much to handle — as a YP Bible Study leader, it was extremely taxing to prepare both the Bible Study and tuition lessons.

On top of this, we only had five students. The small attendance was discouraging and it made me question if there was really

a need to start this work. In spite of all this, I thank God for His grace and faithfulness in holding this ministry together and keeping me involved. God answered every prayer that we uttered for the tuition ministry in miraculous ways.

Firstly, we now have more than 20 children coming for tuition. Most of these children come from non-Christian families in the neighbourhood, and they stay on to study God's word at YP. It is our prayer that these children will one day be the bridge for the gospel to be carried to their families. Secondly, the burden of this work was lightened when people

from outside the ministry came to support us. Experienced teachers provided resources and tips, and church members donated old textbooks. Lastly, God answered my personal prayer for a co-teacher for my class (I now teach with Roanne Ho). These answered prayers keep me going because it shows me that I serve a living God who is working through us to build His church.

As young people, stepping up to serve is often daunting. Many questions will cross our minds: Am I old enough to serve? Am I suited for this ministry? What

if I mess things up? While these are practical questions to ask, don't let these questions stop you from stepping out and stepping up. Don't be intimidated by your age or lack of experience; you gain experience when your hands are on the plough. You may not seem cut out for it at first, but God will mould you to be the right fit. If you want to serve in a ministry, don't let your fear stop you. We serve a living God who is building His church and He wants us to be part of it. For those who are already serving, although the temptation to throw in the towel and pursue

other things may seem strong, let us fix our eyes on Jesus and press on. God has already won the victory at the Cross and He is still working in His church.

"IT IS OUR PRAYER THAT THESE CHILDREN WILL ONE DAY BE THE BRIDGE FOR THE GOSPEL TO BE CARRIED TO THEIR FAMILIES"

Girls' Brigade Ministry



Hui Xin, En Lin and Charlene with some of the GB girls

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Helping out at the Mayflower Primary Girls' Brigade (GB) Camp in May showed me the evangelistic potential of this unique ministry. Having each precious life exposed to Bible stories, Christian songs and Christian role models weekly is an opportunity hard for the church to find amongst non-believing primary school

students. While there are many girls who are well versed in Bible knowledge from their own churches, there are also girls in the school where GB is their only contact with Christianity. These are the lives that God uses Bible lessons and verses to reveal Himself to. And this God-sent opportunity for outreach is one we need to pray fervently for.



Officer, helper and the GB girls

Besides Bible lessons, encouraging the girls to practise what they have learnt — to love, respect and put others first — also plays a huge role in evangelising to them. Granted, there may be occasional quarrels and unpleasant exchanges among them, yet the clear direction to be united in love is one that characterises GB, and one

that the girls are fully aware of. Having such a mindset amidst a schooling and CCA culture that tends to overtly promote self will surely remain in the mind of each girl as she progresses in life. It will remind her of how God, who is ever in close reach, loves her for who she is and that Jesus died for her.

Combined Reflections on GB Camp

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The recent camp showed us that GB is truly a place where values are taught and reinforced, and where character is built. The activities planned for the girls — Drill sessions, area inspection checks, and an exciting trip to the Science Centre — all serve to build character in one way or another. For example, girls practised marching under the sun during drill sessions, until they mastered the skill to a certain level.

These drills, though sometimes dreaded and seem inapplicable to life beyond GB, are in fact precious character training processes that inculcate values like discipline, diligence, self-control and excellence.

It is essential for helpers like us to tease out these deeper layers of learning behind the activities we conduct.

Training the girls also helped to forge personal relationships between the officers and the girls. The result was an intimate, yet respect-commanding relationship. This was evident from the warm friendships that we as helpers forged with the girls during the short GB camp, even though it was a first experience for some of us.

If we recognise that such relationships are gifts from God, the appropriate response is for us to offer ourselves as willing vessels for Him to use these relationships for His Glory. Furthermore, while GB has great potential to change the girls, it changes us too when we consciously strive to be godly, positive older figures to the girls by being careful to conduct ourselves in a Christ-like manner.

The crux of GB is the fact that it is a Christian CCA that lies within a secular school — a rare opportunity in schools today.

It is in fact, God's work and influence in Mayflower Primary School. The values taught and the love that we display towards the girls are all out of our love

for God and His ministry, with the hope that these girls will come to know Christ as their Lord and Saviour someday.

Volunteers from the church with a heart for young GB girls are very much needed. Since God has purposed it for our church to adopt this ministry, it is our responsibility to continue this ministry and to continue it well.

The current batch of leaders has been at the helm for many years now, and what GB needs is an additional pool of youth helpers, who will bring a refreshing and exciting change for the ministry. You do not need to be a former GB girl to serve. You can serve even in the smallest of ways, just like us who have helped out in activities such as camps!



Adeline, with one of the GB girls

YA Retreat 2016

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Bright and early on the morning of National Day, the young adults of Bethesda Hall AMK and Depot Walk gathered in the attic of BAMK. After a time of worship, Roy Hill came up to give a message. To our surprise, he promptly asked all of us to stand up while he read from the Bible! As he read 2 Kings 22:8-20 and Nehemiah 8, we began to understand why - in Nehemiah 8, the assembly stood 'from daybreak till noon...day after day' to 'listen attentively' (verses 3 and 18) to the reading of God's Word, and were prompt to obey what they learned. This showed that they treated God's Word with great awe and respect. After Roy Hill's message, we broke into small groups for some discussion and sharing on these passages.

Our small group discussions were followed by a wonderful time of fellowship over lunch, during which existing friendships were strengthened and new ones were built. Community and fellowship are truly gifts from God! Through one another, we were encouraged and "spur(red) on...towards love and good deeds" (Heb 10:24). We played a very entertaining game after lunch, which



Roy Hill, who spoke at the Retreat

helped to combat the post-lunch sleepiness and resulted in lots of laughter (and quite a bit of confusion!).

After the game, Brother Roy came up to give his second message. Again, he asked us to stand while he read Jeremiah 36 and Revelation 3:7-13. As I listened to Jeremiah 36, I was taken aback by how Jehoiakim (the king of Judah) listened and responded to God's Word — 'sitting in the winter apartment, with a fire burning in the firepot in front of him...(he) threw them (the columns of the scroll) into the firepot, until the entire scroll was burned in the fire. The king and all his attendants who heard all these words showed no fear, nor did they tear their clothes' (verses 22 to 24). What a huge

contrast to Nehemiah 8!

Are we more like the people in Nehemiah 8 or king Jehoiakim in Jeremiah 36? Do we revere and obey God's Word, or have we grown so comfortable that we are indifferent to what it says?

One of my greatest takeaways from the retreat was the importance of consistency in reading God's Word and putting it into practice. Like the assembly in Nehemiah 8, we should also study and obey His Word 'day after day'. We will be ill-prepared to respond to trials if we fail to do so — facing a trial would be like trying to run a marathon without training consistently beforehand! Even though we may not see the fruit of our diligence immediately,

we should persevere, knowing that God rewards 'those who diligently seek Him' (Heb 11:6). Our job is obedience — we need not concern ourselves with the outcome of our obedience, as that is in His hands.

I joined the planning committee for this retreat feeling slightly

apprehensive and fearful, as it was quite a step out of my comfort zone!

Yet, I left the retreat with a heart full of joy and wonder — isn't it amazing that our infinitely loving and powerful Creator and Sustainer speaks to and encourages us through His Word

and His people?

Nehemiah 8:12 says "Then all the people went away...to celebrate with great joy, because they now understood the words that had been made known to them".



Participants at the Retreat



Breaking out, for discussion in small groups

Sep – Oct 2016 Assembly News

NEW MEMBER

17 July: We warmly received Hooi Ka Lup from Batu Gajah Gospel Hall into our assembly fellowship at BAMK.

BIRTH

28 July: God's gift of a baby girl, Natalie (1st child), to Elnathan Erh & Sofia.

WEDDINGS

31 August: Wedding of R Ramesh and P Ruby in India
3 September: Wedding of Benjamin Chia & Melinda Hoe at Bethesda Hall (Ang Mo Kio)
3 September: Wedding of Joshua Yong & Jeanna Goh at Bethesda Hall (Depot Walk).

BEREAVEMENT

Our deepest condolences to:

- Surenthiran Prabhakaran on the home-call of his grandfather on 23 June 2016.
- Charles Eu on the home-call of his sister-in-law, Margaret Lee (our member) on 13 July 2016.
- Allen Tan on the home-call of his father on 31 July 2016.
- SV Ramalingam and Rose on the home call of Rose's mother on 25 August 2016.

FAREWELL

17 July: Nicholas Ong left for a 2-year Master of Public

Policy and Management Programme at the University of Melbourne, Australia.

18 August: Yeo Tun Ren left us for 1-year overseas study (Exchange Programme) at the University of California, Berkeley, USA.

EVENTS

9 JULY

ASSEMBLY GOSPEL RALLY DEDICATION NIGHT

Speaker: Tay Kim Swee
Chairman: Wan Yin Chi
About 40 attended.

15 - 17 JULY

ASSEMBLY GOSPEL RALLY

Theme: "To Gain the Whole World?" (Mark 8:36)
Speaker: Tan Jin Song
Chairmen: Choong Kit Soon (Fri), Ho Xin An (Sat), Ho Ren An (Sun)
Drama and Video Flashback & Testimony Presentation: Ernie

Abbott & Team
Children's Rally Programme
co-ordinator: Choy Weng Yin
Children's Rally Speaker:
Darren Kui (Upper Primary) /
Moritza Lim (Lower Primary)
Item: Balloon sculpture play
on the story of Jonah
Main Rally: 20 newcomers
counselled for salvation and 1
counselled for assurance.
Children's Rally: 4 counselled
for salvation and 1 counselled
for assurance
About 200 attended each
night.

30 JULY

BDW COOKING FELLOWSHIP

Recipe by Rachel Fung
(Portuguese Egg Tart).
Bible Sharing by Dennis Loh.
38 attended

8 AUGUST

BAMK KINDERGARTEN 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Theme: "Great is Thy
Faithfulness" (Lamentations
3:23)
Speaker: Andrew Kwan
Chairman: Keith Wan
About 450 attended.



Participants at the AGR dedication night

9 AUGUST

**YOUNG ADULT MINISTRY (YAM)
RETREAT AT BAMK**

Theme: The Word and the
People of the Word
Speaker: Roy Hill
About 80 attended.

10 - 11 AUGUST

SPECIAL MINISTRY BY ROY HILL



Special Ministry by Roy Hill..



Games carnival at Kindergarten 30th Anniversary Celebration.



Balloon Sculpting at the 30th anniversary celebration

Topic: 10 Aug — The Gospel of
God concerning His Son, Jesus
(Romans 1:1-9)

Chairman: Wan Yin Chi

11 Aug — The Will of God
concerning His servant, Paul
(Romans 1:10-20)

Chairman: Daniel Skelton

About 110 attended.

13 AUGUST

**A&A THANKSGIVING SERVICE AT
BAMK**

Theme: “Be thankful, An
afternoon of psalms, hymns
and spiritual songs.”

Speaker: Roy Hill (from
Bristol)

Chairman: Gerald Sim

Welcome Address: Andrew
Kwan

Opening Prayer: Tan Kian Huat

Greetings by Mr Henry Kwek,
Member of Parliament, Nee
Soon GRC

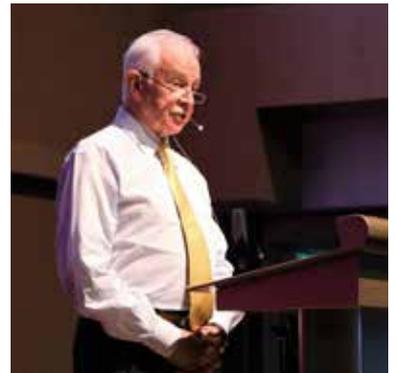
Closing Prayer: Wong Tuck
Keong

Pianist: Rhoda Ng

Video on The Journey of the
Renovation. Song items by:

- The Bethesda Choir,
- Lee Chong Kiat & Amy,
- Ng Swee Choo, Alice Wee
and Marvin Wee,
- Bryan Chan, Matthew Chia,
Wesley Ng and Marvin Wee,
- Lydia Choa.

More than 500 attended
including overseas guests from
Indonesia, Japan, Korea and
the Philippines, grass-root
leaders from Kebun Baru CC,



Message by Roy Hill

elders from the other brethren assemblies, our consultants, contractors, service providers and suppliers.

Buffet dinner was served after the service.

17 - 20 AUGUST
10TH ASIA PACIFIC ASSEMBLY
CONFERENCE

Venue: Putrajaya Marriot Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
 Conference Speaker: Roy Hill (Bristol)

Theme: Rising Up! Overcoming 21st Century Challenges!
 (Rev 2-3)

Organised by three assemblies in Malaysia (Life Chapel, Jalan Imbi Chapel and Burmah Road Gospel Hall)

Attended by more than 400 (including 35 members from BAMK/BDW), from Australia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, Thailand, the UK and the USA.



Song item by Wesley Ng, Bryan Chan, Matthew Chia and Marvin Wee



Singspiration at the Thanksgiving Service



Bethesda Choir presented an item

MINISTRY

GOSPEL SERVICE

Date	Morning Ministry (AMK)	Morning Ministry (DW)	Venue	Speaker	Chairman
2-Oct-16	Andrew Kwan	Peter Wong			
9-Oct-16	Tay Kim Swee	Peter Wong	DW	Jordan Tan	Ho Xin An
16-Oct-16	Tan Kian Huat	Gerald Sim			
23-Oct-16	Tan Kian Huat	Tay Kim Swee	AMK	Francis Toke	Kelvin Ng
30-Oct-16	Stephen Chang	Wong Yong Jian			
6-Nov-16	Andrew Sng	Tan Jin Song			
13-Nov-16	Jim Fleming	Tan Jin Song	DW	Jonathan Sikhamani	Ryan Kwan
20-Nov-16	Harry Tan	Kenneth Wong			
27-Nov-16	Tan Chee Hwee	Kenneth Wong	AMK	Felix Lim	Noah Ong
4-Dec-16	Stephen Grant	Tan Li Sheng			
11-Dec-16	Nathaniel Sim	Stephen Grant	DW	SV Ramalingam	Ho Ren An
18-Dec-16	Wan Yin Chi	Harry Tan			
25-Dec-16	Wong Tuck Keong	Harry Tan			

SPEAKERS FOR PRAYER MEETING FROM OCT - DEC 2016

Date	Bible Text (from Numbers)	Speaker (AMK)	Speaker (DW)
4-Oct-16	Balaam and his donkey 22:22-30	William Chew (Combined Meeting @ AMK)	
11-Oct-16	Balaam and the Angel/Balak 22:31-41	Ng Kim Khoo	Tan Ah Beng
18-Oct-16	Balaam's first oracle 23:1-12	Marvin Wee	Ho Ren An
25-Oct-16	Balaam's second oracle 23:13-26	Sherman Sim	Ryan Kwan
1-Nov-16	Balaam's third oracle 23:27-24:14	Yeo Ann Kian (Combined Meeting @ AMK)	
8-Nov-16	Balaam's fourth oracle 24:15-25	Benjamin Chia	Aaron Wong
15-Nov-16	Israel's filthy behaviour 25:1-5	Johnny Fan	Josh Sum
22-Nov-16	Phinenas' faithful action 25:6-18	Asher Khoo	Jonathan Sikhamani
29-Nov-16	A census to take 26:1-65	Calvin Koh	Wong Tet Keong
6-Dec-16	An issue to decide 27:1-23	Kui Tuck Meng (Combined Meeting @ AMK)	
13-Dec-16	Instructions to pass on 28:1-31	Choy Boon Yew	Alex Matthew
20-Dec-16	Instructions regarding sacrifices 29:1-40	Bryan Chan	Emie Abbott
27-Dec-16	Instructions regarding vows 30:1-16	Matthew Chia	Tan Li Sheng