

DUMC

FLOODGATES



FLOODGATES

January to April 2022

Message From Senior Pastor




- 1-3 **RECALIBRATE**
- 4-5 **V-Meet 2021: Sexual Brokenness and the Journey of Recovery to Wholeness**
- 6-8 **PJN1 Monthly Worship Night**
- 9-10 **God's Unfailing Love**
- 11-15 **3 Life Lessons From Job**

ImpactBeyond Stories

- 16-17 **Behind The Closed Door**
- 18-19 **That They May Know The Love Of Christ**

DUMC Stories

- 20-22 **Building Faith, Overcoming Fear**
- 23 **Hardness Of The Human Heart**
- 24 **To Know An Extraordinary God**

Damansara Utama Methodist Church
Dream Centre, 2 Jalan 13/1, Seksyen 13,
46200 Petaling Jaya, Selangor, Malaysia
T +603.7958 7388 **F** +603.7958 3787
E general@dumc.my    dumcMY
W dumc.my
The church office is closed on Mondays.

FROM THE EDITORIAL TEAM

We are living in an era of constant change, and we witness something new every day, to the point that we may be numb to it. Nothing surprises us anymore. With instantaneous information available through social media, and the constant bombardment of “news”, today’s generation can be overwhelmed by what used to be considered “unusual” or “shocking” in times before, and begin to believe that this is “acceptable” and “normal”. But it should not be “acceptable” nor “normal”.

Romans 12:2 tells us “Do not conform to the pattern of the world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”

Floodgates was created to be a vessel, a platform where we can publish articles and testimonies to bless and inspire God’s people towards Godly renewal of the mind mentioned by the apostle Paul, and which will stand out from the daily bombardment of confusing and possibly unhelpful “information”.

In Floodgates, we, as a Church, the Body of Christ, can share stories and bear witness to God’s amazing grace and give Him the glory. Also, we can remind ourselves that we are nothing without Jesus, that we would just be part of a dying world and hopeless.

On the cover, “G” is at the centre of the title, Floodgates, just as we need to place God at the centre of our all. Our name Floodgates originates from Malachi 3:10 “Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this,” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.”

Father God, may we all, children of God, be blessed when the “floodgates of heaven pour out...” and be reminded that the presence of God in our lives is the blessed life.

RE- CALIBRATE

By Pastor Chris Kam, Senior Pastor

We started off this year with a DUMC leadership conference called RECALIBRATE. The title itself reflects our intention. About five hundred leaders attended and our hearts' desire was three-fold:

- 1. Recalibrate DUMC leaders back to our philosophy of ministry - our core values and principles - so that DUMC can be agile in meeting the challenges of change.**
- 2. Revitalization of cell groups (CGs) in 2022 and beyond.**
- 3. Resourcing cell leaders of DUMC to improve pastoral and discipling effectiveness of their CGs.**

The word recalibrate in the world of instrumentation simply means "to make small changes or fine adjustments to an instrument so that it measures accurately." The small minute drift happening over time can be so subtle that an adverse effect will be felt much later. For example, a one-degree shift in direction flying from Kuala Lumpur to Melbourne will take us 110 km away from the intended destination of about 6000 km in distance.

The key firstly is to be clear about our destination. It is asking the following questions "Where are we going?" "How are we getting there?" "What must we be, or have, to help us get there?" and finally, "What does it look like when we get there?"

If the answers to these are not clear, we will be blown and tossed by every wind of fad and trend that comes our way. I am reminded of the account of Jesus being anointed at Bethany by the woman with the alabaster jar (**Matthew 26:6-13**). The disciples were upset that the jar of very expensive perfume that could have been used to help the poor, was rather "wasted" by pouring it on Jesus' head. To the disciples, this served no good purpose. The reply from Jesus was simply this: (**Matthew 26:10-13**) ¹⁰ ... "Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me." ¹¹ The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. ¹² When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial.

¹³ Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her."

This reminds me that not everything is at face value and not everything that is good is what we ought to do at that moment. I have learnt that not all good things are God things. We can miss out on God by being overcommitted to many good things. This can work out both ways, meaning, we can end up not doing the God things, or we are unable to give our best to the God things. This sounds like the story of our lives. We are always so busy, yet God has been fair to give everyone 24 hours. God knows we cannot do everything, but we all can do the God thing. So, what is that God thing for you? What is that God thing for DUMC?

It scares me to think that when I am to give an account of my life some day before God, hopefully with some measure of achievements, accolades, and successes (and



It is a reminder that when we walk on these paths, we walk with restedness in our souls. It does not mean we do not work hard, but we work from a sabbath rest in Him.

failures too), God not only does not applaud me, but instead says, “I didn’t ask you to do them.” If we say God has a plan for our lives, and that He has created each of us with unique spiritual giftings, passions, abilities, personalities, experiences, and heart, we are each therefore one of many unique pieces of a puzzle to complete the beautiful picture of God’s redemption. The Pauline illustration of the members of one body is a case in point.

(Romans 12:3-8; 1 Corinthians 12:12-31)

This is therefore the question for the churches. In the same way, God wired the Body of Christ with such diverse and unique member churches for His greater purpose. We are not called to do all and every good thing. We are called to do the God things. The guiding principle is simply that everything we do must follow the Ancient Paths, which I had preached and written about in this column in 2020. In a nutshell, Prophet Jeremiah exhorted the people of God: This is what the Lord says: *“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.”*

(Jeremiah 6:16)

It is a reminder that when we walk on these paths, we walk with restedness in our souls. It does not mean we do not work hard, but we work from a sabbath rest in Him. I had explained that in my understanding of the Lord’s commandments, there are two non-negotiable calls for the church and to us as disciples of Jesus. They are the Great Commandment **(Mark 12:30-31)** and the Great Commission **(Matthew 28:18-20)**. Everything we do must fall within these ambits. These are the God things spelt out in general but for the specific church and individual, they must discern the heart of God for them on what part they must play.

When I reflect upon the vision and missions of DUMC, our tagline and our core habits, it is important that they fall within these mandates. **(You can view them here in “bit.ly/dumcvision”)**

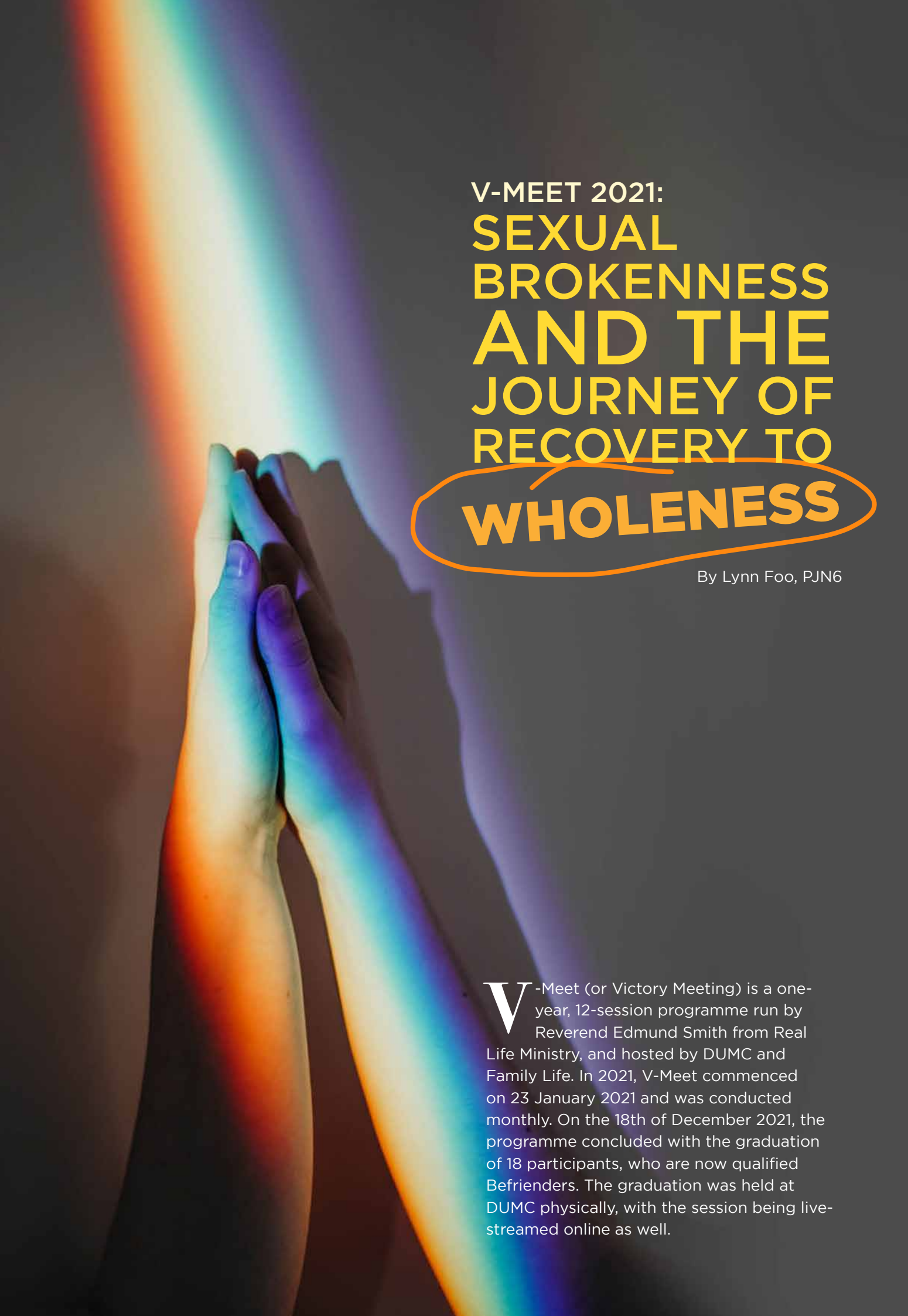
I have challenged you in 2020 not to “waste this pandemic”. It is not a call to ignore the pain and sufferings different ones go through but to learn to live above the circumstances

rather than below them. One good outcome would be the desire to recalibrate, and it can come in many ways and forms– personal, family, ministry, career, etc. What this pandemic is doing is exposing what has been a shortcoming in our lives. It exposes us to what we have, or not have. This is the recalibrating required for all of us who claim to be followers of Jesus and for the church called DUMC.

We are currently preaching through the book of Revelation. The sobering and disturbing judgments and warnings are, in fact, encouragement to live rightly in God as we look forward to a new beginning that is to come. In reading and studying this book, especially the words from Jesus to the seven churches, we are cautioned about the drift in our hearts. The four signs of spiritual drifting are having no desire for God’s Word and prayer, no desire to be with God’s people, no desire to share the Gospel and an increased desire for things of the world.

The message of Revelation is also written to the 21st century church to align us with Him. The fact remains that not everyone at church is in Church because there are some who did not repent and have a genuine conversion of the heart **(Matthew 7:21-23)**. There are so- called “Christians” to whom Jesus will say “I never knew you!” The devil is equally active inside the church as he is outside through false teaching, idol worship, sexual immorality, love of money and possessions, apathy and compromise. It is a good time to recalibrate if we have been badly entangled with the world.

Ephesians 5:15-17 ¹⁵ *Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise,* ¹⁶ *making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil.* ¹⁷ *Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord’s will is.*



V-MEET 2021: SEXUAL BROKENNESS AND THE JOURNEY OF RECOVERY TO **WHOLENESS**

By Lynn Foo, PJN6

V-Meet (or Victory Meeting) is a one-year, 12-session programme run by Reverend Edmund Smith from Real Life Ministry, and hosted by DUMC and Family Life. In 2021, V-Meet commenced on 23 January 2021 and was conducted monthly. On the 18th of December 2021, the programme concluded with the graduation of 18 participants, who are now qualified Befrienders. The graduation was held at DUMC physically, with the session being live-streamed online as well.



Reverend Edmund Smith, an ex-transgender pastor, founded Real Life Ministry (RLM) in 1996 together with his wife, Pastor Amanda Smith. Reverend Edmund is a living testimony of how God can bring about restoration and transformation. He had lived a life of a homosexual since he was 13 years old. He behaved like a girl, was attracted to males and had relationships with other gays. But the Lord was faithful, and at the age of 25, Reverend Edmund decided to leave homosexuality and his past behind.

With the tagline, 'Real Love brings Real Life', Real Life Ministry trains Befrienders for the sexually broken. They also reach out to the deaf community and conduct sign language classes. Reverend Edmund and Pastor Amanda see the need for wholesome and fruitful lives for those who are hurting and have been treated as marginalized individuals who do not 'fit' into the 'norms' of society. Having experienced a better way of life after having been sexually/relationally broken themselves, their genuine love for those who are sexually broken, have seen many come through their doors and begin a journey of recovery.

During the 12-session V-Meet programme, the topics that are covered include a biblical perspective of God's design of sexuality and an in-depth exploration of issues and factors that revolve around sexual brokenness. Jerry Teo, one of the graduates, shares that the knowledge gained has helped him to engage in tactful conversations with the LGBTQ community. In his work with the Street Ministry, the sessions by Reverend Edmund have proven very useful in showing how he

can connect and relate to those to whom he ministers.

"Whether we like it or not, this issue about homosexuality and the LGBTQ community is surrounding us. We should no longer treat it as taboo but rather be equipped to face such issues with a biblical perspective. I strongly recommend the V-Meet programme to everyone", shares Jerry.

V-Meet 2022 is currently ongoing and they have just finished their second session with more than 80 participants this time around. Chang Sau Khen, who attended V-Meet 2021 and is hosting this year's V-Meet, shares his experience about how there were many things he learnt and also needed to unlearn. There were many biases that he used to have, which were put into perspective throughout the 12 sessions. He shares that the knowledge he has gained is not only useful for issues surrounding the LGBTQ community but is also very relevant in relating to anyone who may be broken in other areas in their lives. These may include being relationally and emotionally broken.

"I saw how the Holy Spirit really led and ministered to all of us last year (V-Meet 2021), and pray that we will continue to experience this powerful anointing as we anticipate the Holy Spirit to work and show us things that we least expect", shares Sau Khen.

Currently, there are ongoing plans to organise a V-Talk, a one-time session where members can attend and learn more about this programme and issues regarding sexual brokenness. Do stay tuned for more details.

PJN1 Monthly Worship Night



An Interview with Kenneth Chang and Ivan Wong

In the course of the last two years, most (if not all) of the church's gatherings have migrated onto virtual platforms. With this migration into the digital sphere, have you felt that whilst we have embraced having discussions, meetings and prayer online, somehow there has not been a similar transition for corporate worship?

Hailing from PJN1, Kenneth Chang and Ivan Wong both felt that there was indeed a gap in the church's virtual worship scene and decided to do something about it. Together, and with the blessing of PJN1 Zone Pastor, Pastor Adrian Chong, they started a new ministry to address just that – a new ministry to organise and facilitate corporate worship where members can join for an hour of simple and pure worship.

Alex Tung, representing Floodgates, caught up with Kenneth and Ivan for a quick chat about their starting this new ministry, what inspired them and what was in the pipeline for the PJN1 Worship Night.

Floodgates: Tell us a bit about this new ministry you guys have started. What is it about and how did you guys come up with the idea?

Kenneth and Ivan: We did a survey within PJN1 sometime in October 2020 to check on the spiritual health of its members and one of the questions asked was: “How do you spend your time?”. From there, we realised that many members spent an inordinate amount of time on their mobile phones scrolling through social media. That led or nudged us to think about creating more spiritual content online, something that would be easily accessible for the PJN1 members.

The ministry is called PJN1 Worship Night and the idea was for the whole PJN1 family to gather at 9pm every second Tuesday of the month for an hour to worship God together. We wanted to keep things as simple as possible, so that the main focus would be on worshipping God. Together, we (Kenneth and Ivan) would take turns leading worship while Allan and Sharon would help us out by sharing the lyrics. They (Allan and Sharon) have also kindly allowed us to use their Zoom account. And at the end of the hour, Pastor Adrian or one of the leaders would close the session in prayer and benediction.

Floodgates: What motivated you guys personally to come up with this idea for PJN1 Worship Night?

Kenneth: I had always felt this burden in my heart to do something – but at that point, I did not know what that “something” was. It was when I saw the results from the PJN1 survey that I felt God making this “something” clear and impressing onto my heart the idea of doing worship on social media. I was initially reluctant as I was uncomfortable about leading worship, particularly if it was to be done online – I tried to explain to God that I could not sing and that people were going to laugh at me, but God convicted me and spoke to me through His Word from **Acts 22:21**.

Ivan: The idea of starting this PJN1 Worship Night was Kenneth’s. He asked me to partner with him, and I agreed immediately – there

is nothing better than worshipping the Lord with a fellow brother-in-Christ.

Kenneth: Yes, that is right – I remember it was when I was doing my devotion on 12 November 2020 that God clearly spoke to me the words of Acts 22:21 “Then the Lord said to me, ‘Go; I will send you far away to the Gentiles.’” When Paul said all these as a testimony to the people, I think Paul had known that the people would be hostile and would not accept his message well, yet Paul shared it anyway because the Lord had told him so. That encouraged me to be as bold as Paul, to accede to His call for obedience despite my worries.

It was this conviction which led me to share my devotion with Ivan and in the end asking if he would do this with me. With Pastor Adrian’s go-ahead, my conviction was confirmed and it was there and then that we committed ourselves to doing this every month.

Ivan: There is this song entitled “I was made to praise You” by LaMar Boschman – I have held this song close to my heart and it has impacted my life tremendously. When Kenneth came to me and shared what God had spoken to him, I was reminded of the lyrics of this song and likewise, it was easy for me to immediately say ‘yes’ to him.

A person once came up to Francis Chan and said, “I did not like the worship.” Francis responded, “Don’t worry. It was not for you.” We remind ourselves constantly that worship is for God and God alone, hence even if no one shows up and it is just the two of us, we will continue the worship night.

Floodgates: What kind of commitment (e.g. preparation time, practice, discussion, prayer, etc.) does each worship night session entail?

Ivan: Thankfully it does not take me much time as I am familiar with the set-up requirements and as the months passed and as we did this more often, we tended to get more into the rhythm of things. What does take me some time is choosing the songs and preparing the slides.

However, prior to and during worship, I have to constantly repent of my fear of man. The biggest hindrance for me to overcome is to not care about what other people think of the worship session or me but to sing and play to Him alone.

Kenneth: It was initially particularly difficult for me as I was not comfortable leading worship. The only time I do worship is when my duty for cell group meeting comes up, which is once every two months. Plus, with this being online, I had to try many different online softwares and various new hardware to get the music and singing to jive. Having Ivan to guide me was a great help.

I remember when we first started this ministry, I also asked Ivan to teach me how to sing, and I pray daily to ask for His enablement. By God's grace I finally have the courage to do this with Ivan.

Floodgates: How has preparing for and attending worship night blessed you/ friends/ families?

Kenneth: I intentionally invite my friends to join me online, and it has been very encouraging to hear their testimony. I remember one friend texted me after the session and told me how God had touched him and how refreshed he felt after the hour of worship. He told me that he was struggling to hear God but after that hour of intentionally quietening down and in focus of worship, he felt at peace and in communion with God. Stories like these assure me that it is God's will to do this and not our own desire.

When I practise for worship, my three-year-old son Timothy will occasionally join along and sing, and sometimes at night he will ask me the meaning of the lyrics, which opens up some interesting conversations.

Ivan: Yah, that's true for me too – PJN1 Worship Night and other worship sessions expose my one-year-old son, Ethan to worship. Hopefully, he will also find his purpose in worshipping the Lord one day.

Kenneth: Ivan constantly reminds me of the right posture for worship, i.e. that worship is all about fixing our eyes on God. It is not about how well we sing or play our instruments, or how advanced our gear and set-up are or how the acoustics are captured or any of that – but about how broken we are before Him and how much we want to honour Him.

Floodgates: That is a wonderful testimony. Before we close, how can we as a church pray for you and the needs of this new ministry?

Kenneth and Ivan: Continue to keep us in prayer as we do this every month – that we will lean and grow more and more to worship in Spirit and Truth and that our worship will be acceptable to Him. On the needs front, although recruitment is not our priority now, anyone who expresses interest to worship lead is welcome to reach out to us.

We would also like to take this opportunity to open this invitation church-wide, to all members, friends and family who would like to join us for an hour of worship.

The PJN1 Worship Night happens every second Tuesday of the month at 9pm sharp and lasts for an hour. Members of the Floodgates team have attended and have been tremendously blessed by it! We found that having a worship-specific session that was not part of a meeting or sermon, but was rather an independent stand-alone hour-long worship by itself was the return to simplicity which we did not realise we needed! The hour flew by and we found it thoroughly refreshing and would highly recommend all our readers to join too.

As the platform may change from month-to-month, we would encourage you to contact your Cell Leader or Zone Pastor for the latest virtual meeting details.

We thank Kenneth and Ivan for starting this ministry which has blessed hundreds and will be keeping them in prayer, wishing them all the best and may their efforts be multiplied manifold by God and be sent “far away to the Gentiles”.

GOD'S Unfailing LOVE

By Sarah Lye, PJS2

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
His mercies never come to an end
They are new every morning, new every morning
Great is Thy faithfulness O Lord
Great is Thy faithfulness.

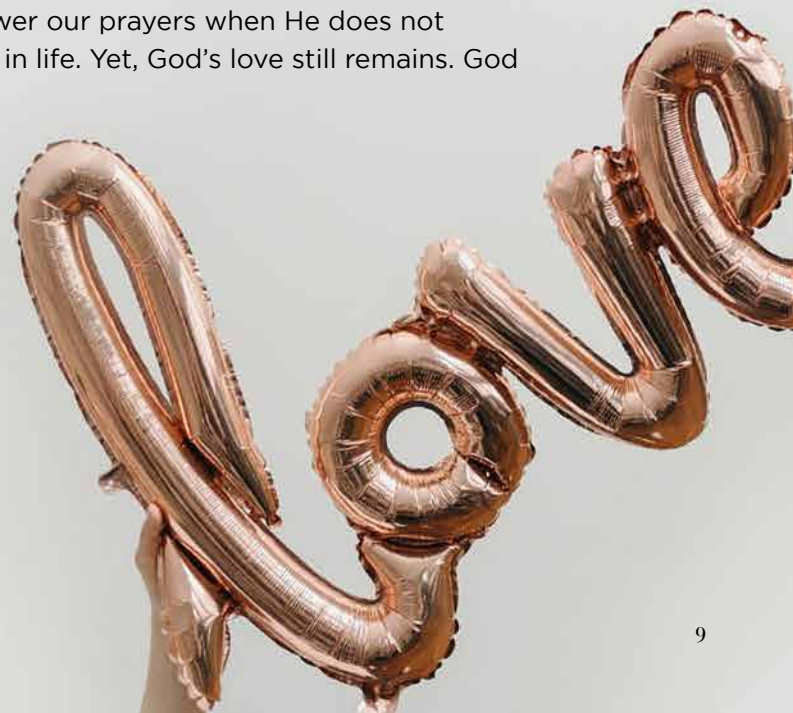
This song came to mind while I was pondering hard on what to write. I was reminded of how God's love is unfailing and never ceases; His mercies that never come to an end as they are new every morning. Wow, we have such a good God that He bestows upon us His unfailing love, grace and mercy.

Every day, we can count on His unfailing love and mercy. His unfailing love is not dependent upon what we can do for Him or what we can sacrifice for Him. It is not based on our works for Him but rather because of His nature. God is LOVE and His love is unfailing! He never ceases to be good to us by showering His unfailing love on us because He simply is LOVE! And His love never fails!

Yes, even when we face challenging times and difficulties and we tend to think that God does not care for us, He really does!

Sometimes, we think that God does not answer our prayers when He does not remove our problems or issues that we have in life. Yet, God's love still remains. God never changes. *"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever"* (**Hebrews 13:8**). The problem is we do not see things from God's point of view. We see things from our own perspective – we only want happiness, convenience and blessings but we reject suffering and problems when actually those are what God uses to shape and mold our character to be more like Him!

Romans 8:38,39: *"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor*



demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, ³⁹ neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Nothing can separate us from the love of God. There are no difficulties too hard or no mountains too tall that God cannot remove them – only believe God, trust in Him whole-heartedly and surrender to God a hundred percent.

I remember trying times at work when I was so fearful and afraid due to transitions that were taking place which were uncomfortable and hard-going for me. All that I could cling to were His unfailing love and His promises in the Bible that say: *“There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love” (1 John 4:18).* I kept meditating on God’s love that never fails and to not allow fear to have a grip on my heart. The process was not easy as I still have that feeling of fear and uncertainty. But when the breakthrough came at the end, it was such a relief and a joy to know that God had never left me nor forsaken me. He was always there right beside me, behind me and before me during those difficult moments.

Another promise of God in the Bible that we can meditate on is from **Psalm 33:18,19** *“But the eyes of the Lord are on those who fear him, on those whose hope is in his unfailing love, to deliver them from death and keep them alive in famine.”*

This is very true in my situation as I hang on to this Bible promise. As I was writing this article, my husband tested positive for COVID-19 and had to be quarantined in his room. And I had to ensure my two young kids and my elderly mother were protected from any COVID-19 infection. All of us wore masks inside the house. The only times when we did not wear a mask were when we were sleeping or eating or brushing our teeth! I was very tired taking care of the COVID-19 patient, making sure that all items that were used by him were washed or dispensed separately and did not come in contact with the kids or my mom in a single-storey house. I also sanitised the whole house every

4-5 hours each day. I just prayed very hard every day that God’s love and mercy would abound and that we would be protected from this virus. Praise the Lord! The breakthrough came when he tested negative on the eighth day and so did we! My husband came out of quarantine and we did not need to wear a mask inside the house! All Glory to God!

When we feel vulnerable and doubtful, we must hang on to God. We must not allow any feeling of guilt enter our hearts. The moment we feel guilty, we need to repent and quickly acknowledge that we need God to help us overcome the negative feelings and pray for God to intervene. We have to abide in His love and at the same time ask God to pour His unfailing love upon us. **John 15:9-12** says ⁹ *“As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Now remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands, you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love. ¹¹ I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and that your joy may be complete. ¹² My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you.”*

Because of God’s unfailing love, we can rely on Him and we will not be abandoned by Him. Even when the waiting time is hard or when we feel that He is not present to help us and comfort us, His loving kindness and compassion never fail and never end. God is always with us. **Lamentations 3:22,23** says: ²² *“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. ²³ They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

We can experience God’s amazing love that is freely lavished unto us. **Ephesians 3:18-20** reads: *“you may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, ¹⁹ and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. ²⁰ Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,”*. We can trust God for the impossibilities because He is able to do more than all we can ask or imagine! And His loving kindness NEVER FAILS!!



3 Life Lessons From The Book Of Job

By Alex Tung, PJN1

I have recently been re-reading the Book of Job, and revisiting Job this time around brought to light some new thoughts. The story of Job is a familiar one: Job, a blameless and upright man who God calls “the greatest man among all the people of the East” is accused by Satan of only loving God because God had blessed him abundantly. To disprove this accusation, God allows Satan to challenge Job and to retract from Job all his blessings. In Satan’s mind, without the enjoyment of these blessings, Job would turn away from God because Satan thinks that Job was only faithful in order to profit off these blessings. As such, in a short span of time, Satan took over the running of Job’s life and Job went from being abundantly blessed to a broken, miserable and devastated shell of a man.

LESSON 1: GOD VALIDATES OUR STRUGGLES

Oftentimes, we think about Job as the epitome of undying faith. We talk about the strength, the tenacity and the resoluteness

of Job’s faith and take from it lessons and encouragement for the strengthening of our faith through difficult and challenging times. As a result, we tend to look at Job as somewhat the personification of perfect and unwavering faith. We think that Job can do no wrong in the face of hardship but instead will endure anything that Satan throws at him. Unconsciously, we make the mistake of thinking that Job had some form of superhuman faith, the kind of faith that only exists in fiction and therefore inapplicable to us. But this is not so. Job is no superhuman – in fact, he is like you and me. And like you and me, he too struggles when his faith is tested.

Reading chapter 3 of the Book of Job, we find our main character here covered from head to toe in painful boils, sitting in a ditch of ash and scraping his skin with pieces of broken pottery. In his pain and torment, Job opens his mouth and curses the day of his birth and vows for God not to care that the day of his birth perishes.

*After this, Job opened his mouth and cursed the day of his birth. He said: “**May the day of my birth perish**, and the night that said, ‘A boy is conceived!’ That day—may it turn to darkness; **may God above not care about it**; may no light shine on it.*

Job 3:1-4

Consider also in chapter 10 where Job accuses God of being reckless, unfair and corrupt:

*I loathe my very life; therefore I will give free rein to my complaint and speak out in the bitterness of my soul. I say to God: Do not declare me guilty, but tell me what charges You have against me. **Does it please You to oppress me, to spurn the work of Your hands, while You smile on the plans of the wicked? Do you have eyes of flesh? Do you see as a mortal sees? Are your days like those of a mortal or your years like those of a strong man, that you must search out my faults and probe after my sin— though you know that I am not guilty and that no one can rescue me from your hand? “Your hands shaped me and made me. Will you now turn and destroy me?”***

Job 10:1-8

It seems natural (perhaps even very “human”) that Job would fall into such negative and damaging thoughts, especially when Job feels that he had been unjustly penalized by God. And yet, at the end of it when Job came back to God and reconciled his emotions with his faith, God did not chastise him. Instead, God vindicated Job and assured him that on the whole, notwithstanding his laments and struggles, that he had indeed spoken the truth.

When God finally came to answer Job, God had this to say:

*After the Lord had said these things to Job, he said to Eliphaz the Temanite, “I am angry with you and your two friends, because **you have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.**” So now take seven bulls and seven rams and go to my servant Job and sacrifice a burnt offering for yourselves. My servant Job will pray for you, and I will accept his prayer and not deal with you according to your folly. **You have not spoken the truth about me, as my servant Job has.**”*

Job 42:7-8

God said that Eliphaz and his two friends had not spoken the truth about Him, as His servant Job had. This is the validation which is of utmost importance – that notwithstanding Job’s outbursts and laments, God continued to see Job as being faithful. Oftentimes we can find ourselves in Job’s position with our outbursts and frustrations and yet, like Job, God can see beyond our struggles and assesses us by the true grounding of our heart.

Throughout our Christian walk, there would inevitably be difficult and challenging times. At such times when we are struggling to understand God’s purpose and feeling frustrated, confused, sad or angry, we take comfort that it is indeed okay to struggle and to grapple with these things. We can take comfort that like Job, we too are only human and would naturally experience such negative emotions; and like with Job, God can see past all of this and when we come back to Him in repentance, He will offer us validation for our struggles.

LESSON 2: GODLY COUNSEL

Aside from the usual lessons in perseverance and tenacity, the Book of Job also has

something to say on the topic of counsel, or rather, more specifically – the importance of godly counsel. God speaks to us in a number of different ways: He can speak to us explicitly (that is, through dreams or divine visitations), He can speak to us through the Bible, and He can also speak to us through the counsel of others – people like our pastors and leaders, and even those closest and dearest to us – our friends and family.

In the story of Job, we are introduced to the characters of Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar. These were Job's friends who upon hearing the news of Job's losses, had decided to come and offer advice.

*When Job's three friends, Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite, heard about all the troubles that had come upon him, **they set out from their homes and met together by agreement to go and sympathize with him and comfort him.** When they saw him from a distance, they could hardly recognize him; they began to weep aloud, and they tore their robes and sprinkled dust on their heads.*

Job 2:11, 12

But instead of actually helping Job, they engage, for 33 long chapters, in debating with Job one after another trying to convince Job that he had somehow disobeyed God and that he had only himself to blame for all his suffering. These friends took turns speculating and casting guesses as to what sin Job had committed, and for these 33 long chapters Job had to categorically justify himself against their accusation.

In fact, his friends were not the only problem he had. If we rewind the story to even before these friends showed up, even his own wife had her bit to say:

*His wife said to him, "**Are you still maintaining your integrity? Curse God and die!**"*

Job 2:9

Notwithstanding all of these were horrifically bad advice, they nonetheless were made out of good intentions. But as well intentioned as Job's wife and friends may have been, Job would certainly have benefited from better counsel.

At the point where Job was already broken and miserable, what he needed was encouragement to persevere and remain faithful and perhaps for someone to validate his struggles or just to sit with him in the ash pile un-judgingly; instead, he had by his side these "friends" who showed up accusing him of being sinful and telling him that he deserved God's fury, and a wife who mocked him urging him to give up on himself and to give up on God.

There are two points to be made here:

- **The first point** is on the importance of surrounding ourselves with godly counsel. As we considered earlier of the ways God speaks to us, speaking to us through the counsel of others is one opportunity we should not short-change ourselves on. We should be constantly surrounding ourselves with balanced, timely and godly advice.

None would deny its importance, yet not all can truly say that if we found ourselves in circumstances where we were in need of godly counsel, that we immediately had someone to call.
- **On the second point:** would you consider yourself someone whom your friend would call, if this friend was in need of godly counsel? Would you consider yourself someone to whom friends turn for advice, especially when they are going through the nicks and grazes of life? Would you be the kind of friend on whom Job could have relied, or are you really just another Eliphaz, Bildad or Zophar?

To truly be someone who can dispense godly counsel, we must first and foremost be attuned and sensitive to God's word, meditating and communing with God regularly so that when He needs to, God can use us to speak His word.

LESSON 3: LET GOD BE GOD

The central theme of Job's frustration and confusion can be summarised into a simple question – and it is this question which Job brings to God again and again throughout the book. Essentially, Job is confused as to why God would allow all these bad things to happen to him. In Job's mind, he is trying to reconcile two main concepts. On one hand, he believes, rightfully, that he is blameless and undeserving of such suffering; and on the other hand, he believes that God is righteous, fair and just.

In trying to synergise these two concepts, Job is basically crying out to God saying that whilst he knows he is undeserving of such suffering, why did God allow it. The key question in the Book of Job is the question "why".

A large portion of the book is dedicated to trying to answer this "why". All of Job's friends agree that God is fair and just, and therefore if a fair and just God has allowed such misfortune to fall onto Job, then logically that means that Job deserved it. Hence, the friends tried to speculate what cardinal sin Job had unknowingly committed for which he was being punished. In the end, these debates come to no fruitful end as each and every speculation made by the friends is countered by Job's justification of how he had remained blameless.

Still, Job's patience wore thin and, in the end, at the pinnacle of his frustration, he asks for God to show Himself and to account for this confusion. In his grief, Job demands from God a justification of why God had seen it just to allow these sufferings to come over him. And from chapter 38 onwards, God shows up and answers Job.

*Then the Lord spoke to Job out of the storm. He said: "Who is this that obscures my plans with **words without knowledge?**"*

Job 38:1-2

In answering Job, God first puts things into perspective and asks Job if he understood the how and the why the universe finds itself in the delicate balance that it is; or if he appreciated the granularity of every living animal's unique trait. And then, and here is the crux of the matter: God dissects Job's question to reveal his deeper assumption behind it.

In Job's mind (and also, in the minds of his friends), God is just, and hence if God had allowed for these sufferings to come onto Job, therefore, this must mean that Job had been deserving of it and God must have meted out these "punishments" in the exercise of perfect justice. But here is where God points out that Job wrongly assumes that his version of justice is God's version of justice – which it is not. God explains that being God, He has His eyes on everything and He has a significantly superior vantage point than Job does.

Where Job may only see something, God sees everything. As such, what Job determines as amounting to justice, may not necessarily be God's version of justice as the considerations assessed by Job and God differ in quantity and quality. Job would never be able to fully gauge every detail of everything in the world to be able to make a divinely balanced and perfect assessment of justice. In short, God is telling Job that he is not God – and to let God be God.

*Then Job replied to the Lord: "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted. You asked, 'Who is this that obscures my plans without knowledge?' **Surely I spoke of***

*things I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me to
know.”*

Job 42:1-3

At some point in our lives, we too may find ourselves in positions where we look around at what is happening or what has happened, and cannot help but to look Heavenwards asking “why?”. There would inevitably be times in our lives when we simply cannot fathom why God has allowed such horrid and devastating things to happen – and like Job, we too may lament at God in frustration asking “why is this happening?” and “how did You see this as fair?”.

*The Lord said to Job: “Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!” Then Job answered the Lord: “**I am unworthy—how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth. I spoke once, but I have no answer— twice, but I will say no more.**”*

Job 40:1-5

It is at times like these that we can begin to understand God’s message to Job – we only find it unjust because we lack a full comprehension of all that God sees and considers from His vantage point. And because we simply do not and cannot have the capacity to command that magnitude of understanding, difficult as it may be, it is at times such as these that we need to put our faith to practice and trust that God, who is able to, indeed knows what is best for us – better than we do. And lest we pretend that we are anything more than mortals, we ought to simply accept, submit and “let God be God”.





BEHIND THE CLOSED DOOR

By Sophy Lim, Head of the Social Concerns and
Community Development SCCD) of DUMC

Have you ever wondered what is behind a
closed door? Would you open that door?

It is a mixed feeling.

Apprehension – will I be able to cope with what
I will discover?

Avoidance – No way, it might be an overstuffed
cabinet, and I will get hurt with strange things
falling on me.

Anticipative – it could be a treasure!

H is a gentle and kind 16-year-old teenager. With her petite and frail body, H's mother Kak Aishah, a single mother, is determined to give the best to her eight children, the youngest being only four and who has severe eczema. She works diligently at her hourly-paid job in the cake factory. The only person she can depend on is H, her eldest son. As much as he loves going to school and being with his friends, H knows that letting go of education is the best for now because his younger siblings need him while his mother goes to work. "I am their protector now" he says. "What are you protecting them from?" I asked. "The drunken man. Whenever he is drunk, he always comes to our house and bangs on our wooden door, shouting vulgar words and threatening to harm us. No one will stop him, and no one will come to help us. We will all run to the small room and lock ourselves in that room. We have to pretend that no one is at home until there is silence behind the closed door."

"You good lah, no need to go to work, got husband taking care of you."

Min forces a weak smile, but her throat is dry and her words stick. "I need help!" she shouts silently in her heart. Min has suffered and battled alone with panic attacks and depression for a long time. She does not feel safe sharing openly about her struggles. Not because she is afraid, or is ashamed of her condition, but she feels tired and worn out most of the time and she is left with little or no energy to explain the many whys and what has happened and is happening to her. Opening the pill container slowly and reluctantly, she swallows the different pills given by the psychiatrist, hoping that the pills will work their magic. Min misses the time with her besties, chatting and laughing at the silly jokes; she misses the excitement of welcoming the morning sun and feeling hopeful for the new day. Now, every day is a repeat of the silent cry behind the closed bedroom door.

Looking up to the sky, observing the slow-moving clouds, Mr C takes a deep breath and releases a loud sigh. He reminisces about his younger self. Life seemed lovely and carefree. Now that he has retired,

time seems slow, and days are filled with unspoken loneliness and the growing desire for someone who can bring a little comfort and company. Turning his head towards the cold and empty hall, while his left hand scratches the dry and itchy right arm, he releases another sigh acknowledging the sign of ageing. This itchiness is unbearable and is affecting his sleep. Ting, his daughter, returns home, walks past him without saying a word, heads straight to her room, shuts the door, and remains in her room for the longest he can recall. "Ting Ting, can you buy me something to help soothe the itchiness? Pa cannot sleep." He wanted to tell her that, but sadly, the closed door is the biggest barrier between the two.

"It's Sunday!" TJ exclaims excitedly. TJ leaves to join his friends in the church service and lunch plan. As they each take their seats in the newly opened restaurant, the conversation starts with Yi's passionate sharing of her experience serving the poor in the food-sharing program. She draws everyone's attention to the pictures she took with the volunteers and some of the recipients of the hot meals. This goes on until the food is served. TJ notices the brief pause and says, "Wow, this is good, but I don't know how you can do this. I can never do this kind of thing. This is not for me." There is an awkward silence after the remark. The sharing ended not with a full stop but with a closed door of the person's heart.

These four stories are real. Names have been changed, but they are real-life stories. If you get a chance to stand in front of each of these doors, would you open it and share the much-needed love, healing, comfort and friendship with the lost, the needy, and the silent sufferer? Would you care to stretch out your hand and invite them to walk out from behind the closed doors? Would you trust in God's help and provision and that He will use you to be His hands and feet and make known His glory?

Hope for the hopeless. It starts with you and me.

That They May Know The Love Of Christ

By Debbie YM Loh, PJN3

In 2021, I found myself pressing the Lord for a response to this question:

“If You had placed me to grow up in a place like Ampang, going through a government school, being at home in the national language and in the rich blend of Malaysian cultures, why is my life so distant from this background?”

Working in the Equip ministry as an administrator and instructor, I engage in predominantly Western and Chinese cultures, using English as the key medium of communication. It is a place where I believe God is calling me to at this stage of life, and a work that deeply resonates with me.

Yet, I became aware of a growing ache toward another part of me that had been sitting idle.

I enquired of God: “Was my cross-cultural background in Ampang all for nothing? I am willing to be used for more local work—however if my time is done in that area, I would understand and accept it.”

The very next day, I discovered that the free English tutoring work I had volunteered for was almost fully cross-cultural—my co-tutors and students alike.

Although it seemed like God had granted my request, I believe that it was God who first placed that aching desire in my heart, to guide me to what He was leading me to do.

In June 2021, I began tutoring English online to three 9-year-old girls from the PPR flats. It was simple and straightforward enough, and I thoroughly enjoyed introducing my students to the English language. (Projek Perumahan Rakyat or PPR is a government social housing programme for the lowest rung of the B40 group.)

In August, my mom and her friends were looking for beneficiaries for an aid programme and asked me to enquire from the tutors’ network to see if there were any needs from the PPR, especially arising from COVID-19. Without expecting anything, I asked the leader of the network, and

discovered that the PPR residents were being infected by the virus and the needs were serious. Shortly after, I discovered that one of my students' fathers was infected and passed on shortly after.

I found myself thrown into the situation, mustering resources for individuals in need. I became acquainted with one of the key community leaders to channel through requests to my mother's church.

Eventually, my mom's friends' project came to a close. Now that the connection with the community had been made, I approached my zone pastor, Pastor Kee Sue Sing, to enquire if our zone, PJ North 3, would like to fund and support this project. I discovered that months ago, a CG had done a prayer walk in that PPR and would like to support this work! This felt like an answer to my prayer!

Several CGs jumped in, and together we raised over RM10,000 as a fund to disburse to any needs that came to us.

Although I had done a Master's thesis on public policy for social housing in Malaysia, and worked with materials on integral mission, I lacked on-the-ground experience working with communities there. Relying partially on what I had read and learned, as well as what I instinctively knew from my cross-cultural background growing up in Ampang, I treaded through building relationships with community leaders.

Above all, I was grateful that I had the chance again to mingle cross-culturally, to speak another language and to practice a different culture. The new friends I made initially thought I shared the same ethnic background as they did!

Before the month ended, I rang up a few contacts to seek advice: Margaret Loy, and friends from Generasi Gemilang. Margaret gave me advice and principles on how I could approach the work in the days to come. Generasi Gemilang gave me a proposition.

Generasi Gemilang proposed for our zone to consider another PPR located in Kuala Lumpur that could use some help with

tutoring work. As I shared this news with Pastor Kee, he told me that another CG whose members lived around that location had been praying about taking up a project there. In fact, one of the CG members was a school teacher and keen to do tutoring work for vulnerable children.

I proceeded to approach the contact Generasi Gemilang provided to me. We initiated the provision of masks to the community. On hindsight, I realised that this initiative had communicated our sincerity in working with the community. Following this first project, we began to work out arrangements to start a tutoring work in the community, albeit online.

As different individuals from the zone began to express their interest, I began to struggle with uncertainty whether the leaders of the PPR trusted us enough with their children. I struggled in prayer to know when to wait and when to push. Thankfully, through God's guidance and support from the zone, our working relationships went well. The head of the community came back to us in mid-December with names of 45 primary school children who would join this tutoring programme at the start of the school year.

Many years ago, a film screened at the FreedomFilmFest moved me. In the documentary, a nun who worked with a home for dangerous ex-criminals responded to a question about her motivation for visiting and loving these men. Her response was this: I want everyone to know and experience the love of Jesus in their lifetime (through my presence). No one should go through life not having known the love and grace of God. I knew back then that if I had the chance to get involved in work among the poor and vulnerable, this too would be my theme.

May all whom we touch know and experience Christ.

May all whom we touch desire to know and experience Christ for themselves.

BUILDING *f* FAITH, OVERCOMING EAR

By May Ng, PJN6



*When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and when you pass through the rivers,
they will not sweep over you.
When you walk through the fire,
you will not be burned;
the flames will not set you ablaze.*

Isaiah 43:2

I have been very prone to fear and worry most of my life. It is not that I want to, but fear and worry seems to be my natural response towards many things, and it goes back to when I was a child. Fear of not doing well in exams, fear of disappointing my parents, fear of getting scolded by teachers, fear of not measuring up, fear of saying the wrong things, fear of being yelled at by bosses, fear of riding a horse, fear of losing loved ones, fear of ill-health, fear of being childless, etc. The pandemic only added to the list of my fears and worries – fear of loved ones contracting the virus and that I will never get to see them again, fear of doom and gloom as the virus mutates and ravages across the land, fear of loss of comfort and livelihood, etc. I will not disagree if this fear ‘habit’ was attributed to my mother’s (erroneous) influence, much to the chagrin of my father. Being a child of God now, I ought to know better.

This weekend’s sermon reverberated deafeningly in me. As the pandemic wore on, I had begun to settle into my comfort zone with the Lord – I realised that being afraid was pointless – God remained in control. God had, on many occasions, showed Himself strong to me, assuring me that He was always there for me. We needed only do our part to comply with the SOPs, and with the MCOs being enforced, I was assured that my loved ones were safe in the confines of their homes. I was contented and at peace, trusting the Lord to work things out in His time.

During the period when the daily Covid-19 cases in Malaysia were incessantly above the 20,000 mark, my dear mother was diagnosed with bilateral breast cancer. Just when I thought I was able to live at peace in the midst of the pandemic, I was dealt this

blow. My mother later confessed that she discovered the lumps many months before, but owing to her fear of Covid, she dared not step out of the house to go for a check-up. Due to certain underlying conditions, my mother was also very wary of taking the vaccine, to the point of being fearful of the side effects. As it stood at that time, there were already so many uncertainties due to Covid – news of adverse events following immunisation, vaccines’ efficacy against the Delta variant, etc. My mother was already in her 70s; doctors wanted her to be vaccinated prior to the surgery. What if she reacted adversely to the vaccine? What if the vaccine resulted in complications to her underlying conditions? If she went for the surgery without being vaccinated, what were her chances of contracting Covid and getting severe diseases? During the waiting period between the vaccine doses, what if the cancer spread? Frequent visits to the hospital might increase the risk of being exposed to and contracting Covid! Being diagnosed with a dreaded disease was horrible enough, but in the midst of a pandemic too? I could not even muster the thought of post-surgery follow-ups and treatment.

I felt like I was drowning in a whirlpool of doubt, despair and discouragement, being rapidly swirled by currents over which I had no control, sinking in unrelenting fear and uncertainty. I felt my faith becoming smaller than even a mustard seed. I needed direction, and an unshakeable foundation from which all decisions needed to be made.

I sought God in prayer. Every day, I would spend hours on my knees seeking His face, and in His Word. I did not even know where to start; but I knew that He knew exactly what needed to be done. In a very short time,

I felt God's light and assurance. The situation had yet to change, but God's soothing balm enveloped me, swaddling me with His love. My faith in Jesus and His finished work started to soar. Confidence and joy in the Lord overcame me, and this strengthened and empowered me to encourage my mother to dive into His Word as well. Being in God's community also helped build my faith - my cell rallied around me and fervently prayed for me and my mother. My mother, who is not an ardent reader herself, shared that she felt edified after reading the Word each time. Without needing me to cajole her, she herself would read and re-read His Word. My mother

also became less fearful - instead of dreading every doctor's visit, we now walk in the freedom of knowing that God uses doctors to heal, and we leave the doctor's appointment with a spring in our step each time.

Despite the many demands of tests and check-ups, I praise God for opening doors and straightening our paths every step along the way. I could only see the step right in front of me, but I committed the entire journey to the One Who has gone ahead of me and my mother. God sees and knows my journey and can be found even in the most mundane of tasks! I was opening a delivery package one day from a sister-in-Christ and lamenting to God at the same time. This sister did not know what I was going through then, and she included the following scripture in the delivery: **Psalm 50:15** - *"and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me"*. This was an instant, assuring answer from God. (Thank you, sister Emily, for being sensitive to the Holy Spirit!)

God is faithful. The vaccination procedure for my mother was a smooth and pleasant one, and she did not suffer any side effects (not even a sore arm!). The duration of the surgery was much shorter than expected too - there was no complication. Best of all, the cancer was at an early stage, localised and did not spread! This is in spite of the delays

in seeking medical attention. We learnt later that my mother was afflicted with two different types of cancer simultaneously, one of which was of an aggressive nature. But God protected my mother all this while! God is true to His promises! This experience has given me a fresh revelation and a deeper knowledge of what God means when He says that His Word is active and living and sharper than any double-edged sword! God is indeed good all the time. This not only comes with the benefit of hindsight; the Bible

does give us the foresight of knowing that God is with us, and with His presence comes hope, help, comfort, protection and assurance. God spoke to me through **Isaiah 43:2** while I was waiting for my mother's biopsy procedure prior to

the diagnosis - God was actually preparing me, and with it came His incomparably glorious promises! We will find Him when we seek Him with all of our hearts, and God promises that He will be found by us. **Isaiah 43:2** is one of my anchor verses now. I have also learnt that true hope is not found in circumstances. True hope rests in having faith in the Rock of my salvation, Jesus. I am reminded of the man in **Matthew 7:24,25** who built his house on the rock.

I did wonder initially - why my mother, at this age? But the answer came in the form of another question - would I have known Jesus as my mother's Healer, if she had not been in need of healing? Thus, as I know Him more, I trust Him more. The faith that overcomes fear is faith in Christ alone. I can trust Him wholeheartedly when I know Him.

Do I still fear as much? I would be lying if I said no. But I believe the answer is to have the reverential fear of God and God alone. God honours our faith in Him, and He will see us through.

"and call on me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you, and you will honour me"

Psalm 50:15

HARDNESS OF THE HUMAN HEART

By Abbey Thangiah, PJN1



The first 11 chapters of Genesis and Revelation are indeed chapters of the Bible which I try to avoid. The first 11 chapters of Genesis summarise millions of years of creation without any conclusive timelines until the tower of Babel, and even this is a debate among many. Revelation on the other hand, describes events and visions beyond the understanding of human beings without any conclusive timelines. For me at least, the first and the last books of the Bible give us a glimpse of the wonders of God's timelines beyond human understanding.

I love movies. Since the 90's, the influx of apocalyptic movies has always bewildered me. Even if they were made by non-Christians, the concepts and the graphics gave you a glimpse of how the world could end. In a sense, graphic artists and special effects engineers have visualised the end of the world and created graphics and effects that have embedded visions in our minds. Although the interpretations may not always be right, the splendour and the devastation of the end times should at least instil in us the fear of the Lord.

Man's wrath creates an unending bitterness that can sometimes be seen through generations. The bitterness of Germany losing the First World War fueled the Second World War. The Treaty of Versailles in 1919

had significant negative economic impacts on Germany. Germany was required to pay the Allies USD33 billion (equivalent to USD506 billion in 2022) in reparations for the war damages caused by World War I. These payments made it very difficult for Germany to take actions that would help Germany's economy grow. The Allies framed Germany as a scapegoat despite Germany not being the only perpetrator in the First World War. To make matters worse, this led to the rise of Adolf Hitler who tried to wipe out the Jews. The repercussions of the Second World War are still felt until today.

I remember the time when I was unfairly dismissed from my job. Using the lockdown and slow progress of the projects as reasons, I was asked to leave my job. I was disappointed, frustrated and utterly bitter. After the meeting with my directors, I left with no good intentions for the company. In my human nature, I wished that the company and its directors would one day be as unfairly treated as I had been. But through time, I realised that it was not the right thing to do. I really thank God that my intentions didn't manifest in the way I wanted them to. I have since learned that vengeance belongs to the Lord. I also learned to be humble and accept life as it comes. Our purpose is to always follow Jesus because we know in the end, JESUS WINS.

TO KNOW AN EXTRAORDINARY GOD, WE NEED TO HAVE EXTRAORDINARY FAITH

By Darren Lim, KL

Truth be told, I have been going through a challenging season in my life when it comes to listening to the will of God. This has in turn affected my prayer life as there is this prolonged feeling of what could be described as a dampened sense of God's presence. Scripture is the very Word of God and is used to inform, inspire and instruct. However, I am longing for the days long gone by when Scripture felt so fresh and alive. There was clarity, there was power in every word. Each verse birthed insights that had shaped and transformed the way I live my life. Presently, I plow on, as best I can, with daily devotion and the week's Bible reading

It was during a pre-CG sharing that I was encouraged to persevere and trust the Holy Spirit to continue His sanctifying work in me. I felt affirmed when my spiritual partners acknowledged that the struggle was real due to our sinful nature and that it will never truly end until Jesus comes again, when we will be made perfect. I felt supported knowing that others were praying for me as I was reminded that we had the Holy Spirit who would slowly but surely, day by day, shorten the throes of this spiritual drought. I am eternally grateful for these brothers and sisters who continue to mutually support and affirm one another as we go through our individual faith journeys.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways."

Psalms 119:36-37 ESV

plan but there is a certain spiritual brain fog that has somehow created a barrier between God and me that I cannot seem to break through. I crave for those moments - though recalled from imperfect memory - when there was spiritual intimacy.

Upon reflection, I have come to realize that God always avails Himself and is ready to receive us with open arms. The closeness and spiritual intimacy I long for is not something to grasp like how one gasps for air when submerged for a time in water - it is freely laid upon open palms when in a posture of surrender, a surrender that starts with giving up time in the busyness of our days to spend time with Him. I will continue to wait upon Him for God is good all the time.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain! Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and give me life in your ways." (Psalms 119:36-37 ESV)

DUMC CONGREGATIONS & MINISTRIES

CONGREGATIONS

ENGLISH

Pr Chris Kam
english@dumc.my

BAHASA MALAYSIA

Pr Eddy Marson
bahasa.malaysia@dumc.my

CHINESE

Pr Dr Ling Shui Nyuk
chinese@dumc.my

NEPALI

Adrin Sant
nepalese@dumc.my

MYANMAR

Pr Sarah Aye
myanmar@dumc.my

TAMIL

Sarah Krishnan
tamil@dumc.my

FILIPINO (Fellowship)

Peter Lim
filipino@dumc.my

YOUTH

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Pr Mike Ngui
children@dumc.my

NEXTGEN

Pr Terry Yeow (Teens)
nextgen@dumc.my

Pr Sara Leong (Campus)
nextgen@dumc.my

ADULTS

MEN ALIVE!

John E
men.alive@dumc.my

WOMEN2WOMEN

Stella Hoh
w2w@dumc.my

COMMUNITY

BREAKTHROUGH DRUG
REHABILITATION CENTRE

bdrcc@ces.org.my

CITIZENS NETWORK FOR
A BETTER MALAYSIA

sccd@dumc.my

EXCEL TUITION CLUB

Yuen Ting Ai
sccd@dumc.my

GOLDEN CLUB

Rupert Ling
sccd@dumc.my

FOODBANK

Tan Hong Looi
foodbank@dumc.my

S.T.A.R YOUTH
(Ministry for Intellectually -
Challenged Youth)

Tracey Chan
micy@ces.org.my

STREET MINISTRY
(Ministry to the Homeless)

Jerry Teo
sccd@dumc.my

URBAN COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT

Sophy Lim
sccd@dumc.my

HELP DESK

Josond Lee & Elizabeth Lee
helpdesk@dumc.my

FIRST TOUCH

CONNECTORS

Pr Alex Tan
connectors@dumc.my

SECURITY

Pr Adrian Chong
security@dumc.my

USHERS

Pr Alex Tan
ushers@dumc.my

MISSIONS

CROSSFIELDS

Pr Kelvin Yong
missions@dumc.my

FAMILY

FAMILY LIFE MINISTRY

Kay Yeow & Rachael Ling
family.life@dumc.my

PREMARITAL COUNSELLING

Bob & Ruby Chee
pmc@dumc.my

MARRIAGE

Adrian Chen & Susan
marriage.course@dumc.my

PARENTING (Children)

Ronnie & Ivy Khoo
Dennis Ngai & Joo Wei
parenting.children@dumc.my

PARENTING (Teens)

Vincent & Lily Wong
parenting.teens@dumc.my

WEDDING PLANNING

weddings@dumc.my

COMMUNICATIONS & MEDIA

DEW CREW

Huong Yew Yi
dew.crew@dumc.my

FLOODGATES
(Church Magazine)

Petulia Lun
floodgates@dumc.my

CREATIVE ARTS

Darren Ong
creative.arts@dumc.my

RESONATE
(Worship Ministry)

Gabriel Ngui
resonate@dumc.my

OTHERS

FORERUNNERS
(Intercessory Prayer Ministry)

Pr Chris Manivannan
forerunners@dumc.my

TADIKA JUARA CERDIK

Rachael Chan
general@dreamacademy.edu.my

**LOVE GOD.
SERVE PEOPLE.
MAKE DISCIPLES.**

We are DUMC.

A church for all generations
—an exciting community
of families, senior citizens,
young adults, teenagers,
and young children, doing
life together.

Our primary purpose is not
to make nice religious Christians.
Our purpose is to build passionate
disciples of Jesus Christ.