

SEP - DEC 2021 | JAN - APR 2022



Strengthening OUR FAMILY CHURCH 强化我们的家庭教会

Loving
God
敬爱上帝

Uniting
Generations
联合世代

Tranforming
Communities
转化社群



Growing Together In Maturity, Serving The Communities

Contents

Event Happenings | Sep - Dec 2021

CHURCH EVENTS /04

FOREWORD /05

FEATURE /06

- 06 Unity in the Lord
- 08 Loving God: Rooted In Christ
- 09 Transforming Communities: As Christ's Servants

LOVING GOD /10

"Grow in Maturity in Christ"

- 10 Church Theme Seminar: Strengthening our Family Church
- 11 365 Days Bible Reading Challenge

UNITING GENERATIONS /12

"Grow together in maturity of Christ's Service"

- 12 Creative Arts Camp (CAC) 2021: Training our Next Generation
- 13 As We Train and Equip
- 14 Watchnight Prayer 2021: Uniting Generations

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES /15

"Served our communities as Christ's Servants"

- 15 Tung Ling Community Service

Event Happenings | Jan - Apr 2022

CHURCH EVENTS /18

FOREWORD /19

FEATURE /20

- 20 Coming Back Home - How physical worship services and LG meetings have helped members grow closer to Christ

LOVING GOD /23

"Our call to become mature in Christ"

- 23 Abide in God

UNITING GENERATIONS /24

"Uniting everyone in the knowledge of Christ"

- 24 Coming Together as One Body of Christ
- COS Thanksgiving Service
- 25 #UG Cards

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES /26

"Proclaiming Christ to All"

- 26 Bangladeshi Migrant Workers Ministry (BMW Ministry)
- 27 Updates from the Myanmar Service

STORIES OF FAITH /28

OTHER NEWS /31

Editor: Foong Daw Ching

Editorial Team: Jasmine Ho, Daniel Foo, Michelle Yong, Rachel Yim, Benjamin Huang, Eileen Lau, Dorcas Yeo, Amanda Lim, Koh Chin Kok, Yeo Hong Hai, Lum Chew Leng

Designer: Dexel Pte Ltd

For Internal Circulation only

MCI Permit: MCI (P) 011/01/2022

2021

OUR FAMILY CHURCH

LOVING GOD, UNITING GENERATIONS
AND TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Growing Together In Maturity. Serving The Communities

“Until we all attain to the
unity of the faith, and
of the knowledge of the
Son of God, to a mature
man, to the measure of the
stature which belongs
to the fullness of Christ.”

[Ephesians 4:13]

CHURCH EVENTS

CHURCH EVENTS SEP -DEC 2021				
		1 SEP	15 SEP	25 SEP
		Music Focus Prayer Meeting	Evangelism Focus Prayer Meeting	CE/AIMS Seminar (E)
2 OCT	9 OCT	24 OCT	29-30 OCT	30-31 OCT
Water Baptism	Evaluation II/Leaders' Planning Camp I	Combined Prayer Meeting	CE/AIMS Seminar (C)	Mission Weekend
3 NOV	13-16 NOV	21 NOV	29 NOV - 3 DEC	30 NOV - 3 DEC
Mission Focus Prayer Meeting	Leaders' Planning Camp II	Community Day	Hokkien Bible Camp	Children's Camp
8-11 DEC	11 DEC	13-16 DEC	24 DEC	25 DEC
Teens for Christ Camp	Confirmation of LPC Minutes	Young Adults' Camp	D24 Outreach (Hok)	D25 Outreach (E/M)
31 DEC				
Watchnight Prayer				

In our Asian culture, the concept of family is likened to that of blood which is thicker than water; and the interdependence between lips and teeth. It is the unity of our bloodlines; and the connections and relationships that arise out of love.

The concept of the family church in COS is a heritage of our church culture. Both the young and the old are gathered as one. This relationship is made possible solely by the blood of Christ that saves and unites us, our rebirth through the Holy Spirit into God's family, and God's immense love that binds us together. This relationship can be strengthened when we imitate God (Eph 5:1) and obey His commands (Jn 13:34).

We know this year's church theme: Strengthening our family church.

Our church theme this year continues to be Strengthening our Family Church with the three sub themes: **Loving God, Uniting Generations, Transforming Communities.**

We need to realise our God-given vision for the church, through knowing our family, and then to transform the concept of our earthly home into the heavenly home of everlasting God. Through God's Word, we demonstrate the infilling of God's love and interconnectedness by outwardly impacting the community.

God said: (1 John 4:16 And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.)

God commanded: (John 14:21 Whoever has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. The one who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I too will love them and show myself to them. John 13:34 A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.)

Live out the love of the Lord: (John 13:35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.)

Bearing fruit and growing: (Colossians 1:6 that has come to you. In the same way, the gospel is bearing fruit and growing throughout the whole world—just as it has been doing among you since the day you heard it and truly understood God's grace.)

Knowing God's Word, Transforming God's Word, Living God's Word to Impact... Impact... the World.

Daniel Foo
Elder

I in
YOU
YOU
in Me



Unity in the Lord

“A man speaks of his heart-felt words on his deathbed.”

This phrase is often used to describe the importance of the final words spoken by those who are about to leave this world. Truths that are beneficial, earnest and closest to the heart.

In 2013, right before his passing on, the late Elder George Ong repeatedly urge members of Church of Singapore (Harvest) to stay united. He also requested for a message on the “Unity in the Lord” to be preached during the Worship Service. The late Elder George Ong knew that unity among the members is pivotal to the future of the church when faced with challenging situations. As he departed, the members sang “Love Overflows” - love and unity are inseparable.

John 17 records Jesus’ last prayer before His arrest; that being the last indicates its significance. In verses 20-25, Jesus prayed specifically for believers, mentioning unity and love. The following 3 points are what we should take note of in these verses:

** Photos taken in 2019, before the COVID-19 pandemic.*



1. Jesus mentioned ‘be one’ four times, leaving little doubt that we are to be one in Christ. When an archer takes aim, he focuses only on his target and the rest of his surrounding becomes blurred and of no concern. In the same way, when we are one with the Lord, we focus and look only on Jesus, not caring how others view or think of us. We focus only on our fellowship with our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ and how our unity can glorify the name of the Lord.

Church of Singapore is a very unique church. We have more than ten different Worship Services, each catering to different languages and demographics. This may cause misunderstanding and dissatisfaction to arise between co-workers, and unwittingly causing hurt. However, when we focus on Christ, we are able to exercise tolerance and acceptance for one another. We learn to pray for one another as we continue to fight the good fight for the Lord.

Let us strive for the same goal regardless of which Worship Service we belong to; doing our best individually with our God-given gifts and working together to build the body of Christ to glorify Lord Jesus, such that we may see the glory of God and the revival coming upon us.

Church of Singapore is a local church. We believe that every brother or sister is equal before God. Everyone is a royal priest with his/her own important function. When the church faces challenges, we can overcome it by



2. Verses 23 and 24 also mention that we are not only to know that God loves us as He loves Jesus, but we are also to let this powerful love of God to manifest among brothers and sisters in Christ.

This is an emphasis on God's love for us. We can only love one another when we know and deeply sense how much God loves us. The apostle John did not just mention of his love for the Lord in his epistles, but also about him being a disciple whom Jesus loves. It is through these thoughts that we understand John's closeness to the Lord. Shall we not also tell ourselves that we are God's beloved? I suggest that you stand before a mirror every morning when you start your day, and say to yourself that "I am (name), whom God loves." When we have such revelation and understanding, we will naturally let love flow through us. With this love shed abroad through the unity of our brothers and sisters in Christ, we will be able to look beyond the needs of our church and generation, and cast a wider perspective on the impact and influence we can have on the community.

One of the biggest crises in the church is paying lip-service to loving one other, and not sincerely allowing God's love to flow through our words and actions. It is only through the impetus of love that we can purposefully unite the generations to do the Lord's work. Hence, I look forward to seeing the youths serve in dialect services and continuing the work of the dialect services. I also look forward to meaningful interactions as a result of our older generation reaching out to and encouraging our youths.

seeking the Lord in unity, partnering with one other in humility, gentleness and patience, and actively rescuing lost souls.

Our church's sub themes include "Uniting Generations" and "Transforming Communities". The ultimate goal of transformation in the community is to lead people to Christ. But when we do this, satan is also working hard to prevent people from coming to the Lord. At the same time, he will seek to distract the focus of believers with problems within the church and in the world and as a result of which people will turn away and leave the church. We need to recognise we only have

3. Verse 20 says that "the world will know that You have sent me". When we are as one, there is love at work within us. Others will be able to see that God has sent us, and the church can bring many to experience the power and redemption of Jesus.

According to a survey conducted in 2020, the percentage increase of Christians in Singapore's population from 2010 to 2020 is negligible. It is also of concern that there is a decline in the percentage of Christian youths. Is this not a problem that our church is facing - an ageing population with a low number of youths that has resulted in stagnation of our numbers in worship services over the last decade.

one common enemy - satan the devil. Our battle is akin to fighting a war, and no country can win if her people are divided. Therefore, let us put aside all our prejudices and become one in love, so that we may overcome the devil's tricks and lead others to Christ, and establish a strong church headed by the Lord Jesus Christ in the name of the King of kings and the Lord of lords.

Wong Mun Chung
Elder

Loving God

Rooted In Christ

Take heart!

For every trying and difficult moment has a God-given purpose in building us up and bringing us further along in our spiritual maturity. It is only through trials and tribulations that we grow deeper in our knowledge of God's ways, and His immense love, faithfulness and power.

The last 2 years have been difficult for most of us. As if living in a pandemic was not enough, we are further bombarded with and impacted by news of natural disasters and war. Personally (and I believe many of you will agree with me), it feels as if we are on a ship in a never-ending storm, tossed back and forth by the waves of the world. This has caused many of us to become exhausted mentally, spiritually and physically.

But let us be encouraged! For despite these adverse circumstances, our Heavenly Father has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. We are rooted in God's love and united with Christ. We can choose to praise God, no matter what we have experienced or will experience in the coming days.

Let us not live as "survivors", but as "thrivers"! For the Word of God teaches that we are to thrive and grow in our maturity in Christ. We have been blessed with every spiritual blessing, chosen by God and adopted into His family. By Christ's blood, we have been redeemed; sealed with the Holy Spirit and given an inheritance.

Brothers and sisters, let us thrive! Amen!

Ng Kok Hwa

English Service Assistant SIC



“*Let our light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*”

Mt 5:6

Transforming Communities *as Christ's Servants*

As Christ's servants, we have been called to be the salt and light of this world, set apart for His good works. It was not until a pivotal incident in 2011 that I fully understood the meaning and gravity of this calling...

It was late evening and I was walking around my HDB neighbourhood when I came across a man in his 30s who was sitting quietly in a dim corner alone. I approached him and struck up a conversation.

This conversation turned out to be just what he needed. He started sharing with me his struggles as his career prospects looked bleak after being diagnosed with certain medical issues. He also struggled with depression and suicidal tendencies. In fact, on this very night, he had transferred all monies in his bank account to his wife as he intended to take his own life.

I took this opportunity to share the Gospel with him, and told him how it is only through Christ that we can have hope and a future. Before we parted ways, he promised to reconsider his decision to end his life. Praise the Lord!



God works in ways we cannot see, in His perfect time. I am thankful that I have been given the chance to reach out to the community and bring God's message of hope and peace to those who need it. ***We have been commanded by Christ to love God and our neighbours (Mt 22:35-40).*** Have we shown love to our neighbours? Have we been a source of comfort to them?

Many people in our community are hurting and need the good news of Christ. Let us live out our purpose as Christ's servants, bringing the message of love, hope and peace to our community. Let us be intentional, going beyond our comfort zone to change and transform our communities, one life at a time. Are you ready to go forth?

Thomas Lau
Evangelism Ministry Head



For more information
on upcoming street evangelism activities or how to serve in the Evangelism Ministry, please visit us at <https://cos.org.sg/en/evangelism-ministry/>

LOVING GOD

Grow in Maturity in Christ

Church Theme Seminar

Strengthening our Family Church

We have entered the second year of our theme ***“Strengthening our Family Church”*** and our annual church theme seminar was held on-site and streamed live on 12 June 2021.

This year, we introduced a new segment which featured an 8-minute video capturing the views of our members across services, ministries and demographic groups. It was heartening to hear how their experience and spiritual growth resonated with the church theme. One member's sharing about his experience growing up and worshipping with 3 generations of his family in COS really struck a chord with me.

During the Church Theme seminar, Sis Janette Chong (Bilingual Service) shared about *Loving God*, while father and son duo Bro Daniel Foo (Cantonese Service) and Bro Samson Hu (Teens for Christ) shared about *Uniting Generations*, and Bro Isaac Low (English Service) shared about *Transforming Communities*. They were assisted by Bro Samuel Yeong who served as interpreter.

The seminar was very well-received as our members appreciated the practical approach in living out

our church theme, as well as the anecdotes shared by our speakers. A special video prepared by our mission point in Tanjung Pinang was especially impactful as it provided insights on how our partnership with the mission point had transformed their community.

“ ***Have you been living out the church theme by loving God, uniting generations and transforming communities?*** ”

Tan Peng Ann

Christian Education Ministry Head



365 Days Bible Reading Challenge

In the middle of 2020, Singapore went into a circuit breaker to curb the spread of COVID-19. It was the first time we experienced a full-scale national 'lock-down' where schools and retail shops were closed, and workers in non-essential businesses were made to work from home. With almost everyone being forced to stay home, it was the perfect opportunity to start a Bible reading challenge for our members in Bilingual Service.

The Bible Reading Challenge was launched on 15 June 2020. Members who participated in the challenge met together every weekday morning (over zoom) and read the Bible in chronological order over a span of 52 weeks. A total of 218 people signed up and an average of 40 participated in the daily morning devotional reading.

The objective of the challenge was simply to cultivate a habit of reading the Bible daily. But the more we read, the more we are enlightened and eager to find out more. What began as half-hour

reading sessions daily soon expanded into a 2-hour scripture exposition and sharing. We were initially apprehensive that the morning devotional reading would not last more than a month, but much to everyone's surprise, we completed the full 52 weeks. Going through this challenge as a community made the tedious passages bearable and difficult ones comprehensible. Scripture also sprang to life as we connected through testimonies.

God speaks through His written Word and it is the most common channel of communication. Rather than be defeated by the pandemic and periods of isolation, we can look back triumphantly and declare as Jesus said in Mt 4:4 that **'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God'**.

Paul Yeo
Bilingual Service SIC

UNITING GENERATIONS

Grow together in maturity for Christ's Service

Creative Arts Camp 2021 was no ordinary camp as it was the first Creative Arts Camp held after a 2-year hiatus due to the pandemic. For the first time, the camp was held completely online. Our campers aged between 9 and 14 years, participated in praise and worship, devotions, games, and learnt how to play musical instruments, all from the comfort and safety of their own homes. We used "BandLab", an online platform, to teach the participants the basics of worshipping through the keyboard, guitar, bass and drums.

The camp theme, '*Living Water*', was aptly named as the camp committee wanted this camp to serve as a testimony that worship is not restricted by physical boundaries. Just as in John 4:21 where Jesus told the Samaritan woman that with the Holy Spirit living in her, she would not need to go to the mountain or temple to worship as long as she worshipped "in Spirit and in Truth". We wanted the campers to know that the heart of worship is about their relationship with Christ every day and not bound to being physically in church.

In relation to worship, we also taught the campers that there are many forms of worship, including using musical instruments or bringing others into a time of worship. With this exposure, we hope that an interest has been forged in learning to play musical instruments and that the next generation will be motivated to use their talents to serve Christ!

Charlene Ying

Camp Committee Member

Creative Arts Camp (CAC) 2021

*Training our
Next Generation*



UNITING GENERATIONS

Grow together in maturity for Christ's Service

As We & Train Equip

When we talk about how to equip the saints, we often default to programs, training sessions or Bible classes. While these have a part to play in the role of equipping, they should not reflect the entirety of what each member of the body can or should be to one another.

Acquiring knowledge of God in and by itself brings us nowhere if it is not coupled with faith and understanding of the way God moves or works. Without passion and zeal, this knowledge becomes regurgitated textbook answers.

The church as an organism, should not and must not be treated solely as an organisation. This is in no way undermining the structure, organisation or institutionalisation of the church. Instead, it is to remind us that we are and have always been a collective of disciples of Jesus Christ; a new being working out our salvation with fear and trembling, but never alone.

In Eph 4:11-16 and 1Thes 5:11-15, Paul addressed churches as a body and as a collective that builds each other up in love and Christlike maturity with some called to preach and some to teach - yet all are to build. Everyone is called to equip, not just those with a larger platform or audience. As we are being equipped, we too are to equip others by encouraging, acknowledging, admonishing, warning, and being patient in love.



“ A good question to ask ourselves would then be: As we are being equipped, how are we equipping others? ”

Benjamin Huang
English Service Pastoral Staff

UNITING GENERATIONS

Grow together in maturity for Christ's Service



Watchnight Prayer 2021 *Uniting Generations*

In line with the church theme of Strengthening our Family Church, 2021's Watchnight Prayer service takes on the same theme with an emphasis on "Coming Home to the dinner table".

The dinner table is one of the important meeting points for most families. It is a place where we convene after a day of work or school to nourish ourselves with food and conversation. As we share a meal with one another we have an opportunity to also share spiritual food, to edify and build one another up in Spirit and in Word.

We as a family in Christ must continue to serve and love one another in action for this is pleasing to the Lord. We must take time to intentionally commune with one another, be it digitally or physically, to build and edify the church so that we may continue to be faithful and steadfast to do the will of God in our lives.

Benjamin Huang

English Service Pastoral Staff

1 *Coming Home*

The Lord has his affection set on you, He does not despise you nor does He reject you. For those who are far away from God or even just grumbling against God, we urge you to come back to the Father and to see how much He loves us. We prayed that God will bring them back into communion with the family of God.

2 *At the dinner table*

When we are seated at the table, we are bonded as one family. We are instructed by Paul in Philippians 2:2 to be united in Christ and to be like-minded, having the same bond of love and being one in the spirit. We are to look not to our own interests but to the interests of others. We asked for members to pray and forgive one another and to consider the needs of one another.

3 *We have a mission as a family*

As we share our stories of faith, we are reminded that we have a deep calling and mission for God. At the dinner table, we are encouraged and stirred up in our spirit to act in obedience.

Tung Ling Community Service

The pandemic has uncovered in many areas, social inequities that have grown so significantly that there is a need for deep transformation. Below are 2 new initiatives through which we transform the community for God's glory.

Tung Ling Shelter **- Home of Rough Sleepers**

When the COVID-19 situation worsened, the Ministry of Social and Family Development (MSF) were concerned of the vulnerability of those without a roof over their heads. To ease their plight, MSF reached out to religious organisations to provide temporary shelter whilst more permanent accommodation could be sought.

When COS became aware of this need, our church leaders gave the approval to convert parts of the church - mainly the basement car park and fellowship area, into a temporary shelter for the rough sleepers. It was also an excellent way to utilise the church premises as Worship Services and church activities could not be held physically during that time.

Operating Tung Ling Shelter has opened our eyes to the experience of the rough sleepers/homeless in Singapore. In a country where the majority of her residents are owners of individual property, interactions with the rough sleepers/homeless are few. We noticed that oftentimes, many are in this plight as a result of deep-rooted family issues,

being dealt with unfortunate circumstances or falling through the cracks in our system.

Running the shelter has had its fair share of ups and downs. There were the occasional minor disputes and incidents with several "uncooperative" stayers. But we also have had success stories such as the reconciliation between a father and son, stayers who have gotten along so well that they have applied for and successfully obtained joint rental housing together, and one who managed to get back on his feet after we helped him with the initial set-up required to be a delivery rider. We have had one who accepted Christ and received salvation. Praise the Lord!

The needs in our community are many and operating Tung Ling Shelter is one way we can impact and transform the community. It is our prayer that more will step forward to serve as it is more blessed to give than to receive.

Michelle Yong
English Service

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Served our communities as Christ's Servants



Tung Ling Counselling Centre **- Hope for the Downhearted**

In March 2020, a group of Counsellors and Psychologists from COS gathered to have a brainstorming session to explore the possibility of starting a Counselling Ministry in COS. There were many great ideas and much excitement, but shortly after, Singapore was hit by COVID-19 and all plans had to be temporarily shelved.

However as time went by, the stress of living in a prolonged pandemic put a visible strain on the mental and emotional well-being of many people. The church leadership recognised a need to restart this conversation quickly, as the need for professional yet affordable mental health services grew in our community.

Parallel to this, God in His divine plan had been raising up more Counsellors within the COS Family. In the past two years, many COS members began to pursue training in Counselling, though they were unaware that conversations to launch a Counselling ministry were in the works.

As we witnessed God moving ahead of us in preparing the Human Resources necessary for this work, the church's Elder Board gave their full support to this ministry, and Tung Ling Counselling Centre was officially launched in July 2021.

Tung Ling Counselling Centre (TLCC) seeks to bless our community through holistic restoration of the individual - both emotionally and mentally - by means of competent counselling and genuine care. TLCC offers free clinical counselling to anyone who needs it, regardless of faith, gender, or ethnicity.

After just six months of operation, TLCC continues to grow in its capacity and reach. We now have a team of six counsellors who are able to provide counselling both online and in-person. In 2022, TLCC is actively making connections with government agencies and other social service agencies, offering our services to anyone who needs it. We are excited to witness how God continues to move, and pray that we will be faithful and courageous in following His lead.

Estella Low

Assistant Ministry Head
Tung Ling Counselling Centre



To find out more about
Tung Ling Counselling Centre,
visit <https://www.tlccs.org.sg>



If you wish to speak to a
Counsellor, you can register
at <https://bit.ly/TLCCReg>

2022

OUR FAMILY CHURCH

LOVING GOD, UNITING GENERATIONS
AND TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

A Call To Christian Maturity

**“ So we tell others about
Christ, warning everyone and
teaching everyone with all the
wisdom God has given us.
We want to present them
to God, perfect in their
relationship to Christ. ”**

CHURCH EVENTS

CHURCH EVENTS JAN - JUL 2022

		16 JAN Combined Prayer Meeting	29-30 JAN Mission Sunday	1 FEB COS Thanks-giving Day	16 FEB Music Focus Prayer Meeting
19 FEB Pre-AGM Q&A	26 FEB Annual AGM LG Leaders Training	2 MAR Mission Focus Prayer Meeting	6 MAR Water Baptism	11-12 MAR CE/AIMS Seminar(E)	13 MAR Membership Induction Class
16 MAR Evangelism Focus Prayer Meeting	16-18 MAR Vacation Bible Camp	18-19 MAR CE/AIMS Seminar(C)	26 MAR LG Leaders Training	2 APR Membership Induction Class	9 APR Evaluation I
10-16 APR Fast & Prayer Week	15 APR Good Friday Outreach (Hok)	16 APR Bible Reading Day	17 APR Resurrection Sunday	22 APR Earth Day	23 APR CE/AIMS Seminar (E) LG Leaders Training
27 APR Prayer Meeting	4 MAY CE Focus Prayer Meeting	7 MAY Church Theme Seminar	14 MAY Parents Day Outreach (Hok)	18 MAY Prayer Meeting	20-21 MAY CE/AIMS Seminar (C)
28 MAY LG Leaders Training	28-29 MAY Mission Weekend	1 JUN Youth Focus Prayer Meeting	4 JUN Seminar-Gender Dysphoria	11 JUN Parents Day Outreach	15 JUN Evangelism Focus Prayer Meeting
17-18 JUN CE/AIMS Seminar (C)	25 JUN LG Leaders Training	2 JUL CE/AIMS Seminar (E)	6 JUL Mission Focus Prayer Meeting	9-10 JUL Mission Weekend	15-16 JUL Mission Convention
16-17 JUL Mission Weekend	20 JUL Prayer Meeting	24 JUL Water Baptism	31 JUL Membership Induction Class		

The Pulpit Committee has recommended the sermon series from the Book of Ruth for our Church Theme in H1 of 2022. The Book of Ruth narrates the stories of Naomi, Ruth and Boaz in the Hebrew community which can be adapted to illustrate our Church's three sub-themes on Loving God, Uniting Generations and Transforming Communities.

The central theme of the book is about *hesed* (*Hebrew word for loving kindness*). *Hesed* describes the act of love and loyalty that inspires faithful and compassionate behaviour toward another person.

Ruth, Naomi and Boaz experienced the *hesed* of God and in turn showed *hesed* to others.

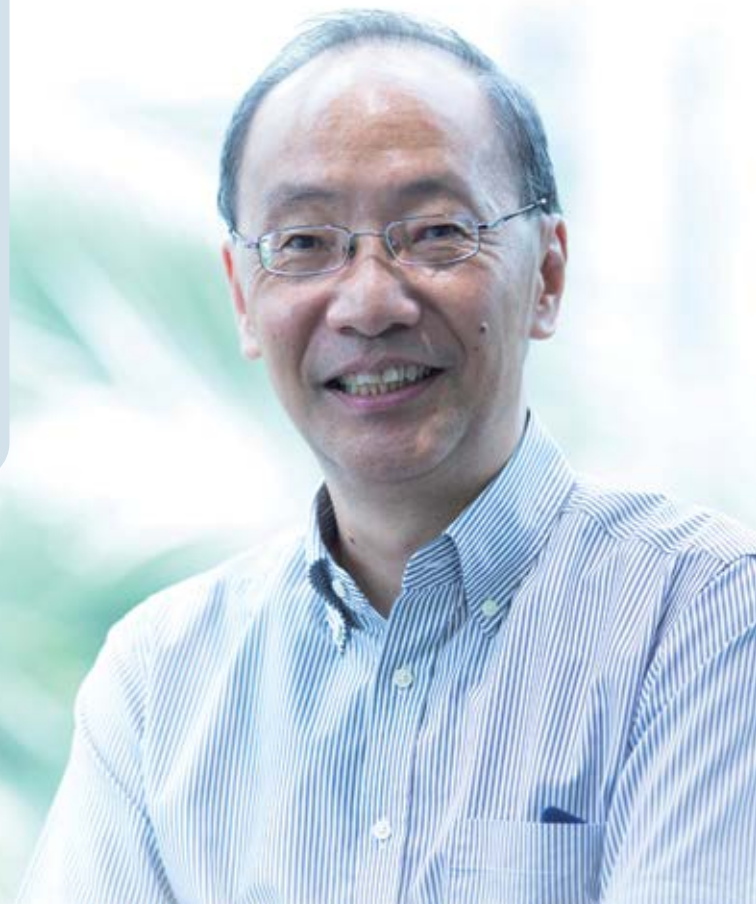
Loving God, Uniting Generations, Transforming Communities

1. The *hesed* of Ruth for her mother-in-law Naomi led Ruth to cling on to Naomi and to embrace her God and her people.
2. The *hesed* of Boaz together with his workers led them to show kindness and favour to embrace a foreigner Ruth. It was a beautiful story of loving kindness, faithfulness and loyalty begetting the same. Ruth, a widow and foreigner was described in Ruth 4:15 as a blessing to her mother-in-law and the Hebrew community and their future generations.
3. The *hesed* of God, from God and for God can and must compel us to love one another. It can and must unite members of different generations through fostering respect, honour, commitment and relationships among us. It can and must propel us to help and serve the weak and needy in our church and the community.

What is something we can do to show *hesed* to honour and build up one another in our life groups and church, young and old? What is something we can do to show *hesed* to help and serve the needy?

Tan Peng Ann

English Service Assistant SIC
Christian Education Ministry Head



Coming Back Home

How physical worship services and LG meetings have helped members grow closer to Christ

Strengthening Our Family Church continues to be our church theme for 2022, with "Loving God" being one of the sub-focus. Loving God is fundamental to strengthening the church. We understand that to love God is to live out the priorities of God in our worship unto Him.

"For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them." [Matt 18:2]

The past 2 years had been challenging as members had not been able to gather together in church for worship services and LG meetings. As a church, we had to navigate through the constant changes brought about by the pandemic, but praise the Lord, we were able to resume on-site worship services and meetings in September 2021 following the relaxation of safe management measures.

While some members are hesitant about returning to church for on-site worship services and meetings, those who came back felt blessed through the physical interaction of being able to worship and fellowship together.

Let us hear from fellow brothers and sisters of how coming back to church and physically attending LG meetings had helped them to grow closer to Christ. May we all be encouraged to come back home!

“

TESTIMONY BY

Ng Bee Ying
English Service

In 2013, I left Church of Singapore to help serve in a newly started church. It was a fulfilling and joyful time ministering to mainly new believers.

In late January 2022, my neighbour Sis Guok from Mandarin service invited me to attend the Church of Singapore's Chinese New Year Thanksgiving service on 1 February 2022. I enjoyed the service thoroughly. In the midst of the service, the Lord spoke to me in a still small voice saying, "Come back".

I took it as the Lord telling me to return to my first and only church after my conversion.

It was a good and happy feeling worshipping the Lord with brothers and sisters in the English service. The Lord also prompted me to join the team of brethren every Sunday at the pre-service prayer from 8am - 8.30am at the basement prayer room, interceding for the musicians, song leaders, speakers, co-workers and the congregation. I strongly encourage you to come and join us in this intercession.

I rejoined the Life Group at Blair Road which I used to lead back in the 1980s. It was a new learning experience as the Life Group was held through zoom. Studying the book of Exodus together and answering probing and reflective questions was beneficial to the heart and spirit.

Returning back to church was a heart-warming experience in which friendships and fellowships with members of the church, the Body of Christ are renewed.

I am glad to be home!

TESTIMONY BY

Lim Peck Imm
Cantonese Service

Although I live very close to our church, it does not mean I have reasons to be late or absent. I think it is a matter of our heart; and worshipping together with brothers and sisters in church is a habit that I have cultivated since becoming a Christian.

To worship in church is not just a part of my life, it is my *life*. When we could not worship in church, I struggled because I was not used to it. However, I understand the importance of personal worship, so I asked a sister to teach me to connect to online service.

In 2021, we could finally return to worship in church and it is completely different from personal worship. This is because the church of God is a real church, a home of God, a family of the Father. Coming to worship in church is to come home to see the Father, to run to the embrace of the Father, and this cannot be substituted.

REFLECTION BY

Chong Sal Liang
Pastoral Staff
Mandarin Service

As the ongoing pandemic continues, it remains a challenge to encourage brothers and sisters to return to church for physical worship, as some of them are unable to do so due to age, health conditions or other personal reasons. However, we continue to encourage them to return at least once a month for on-site Worship Service.

Praise God, most of them were agreeable with this arrangement. What touched them most when they returned is the spiritual atmosphere and care from the members that they could only experience in being physically present. Being anointed by the Holy Spirit during physical worship service is completely different from worshipping online. And this prompted many to return almost weekly since their first return.

REFLECTION BY

Sharon Teo
Pastoral Staff
Hokkien Service

What does meeting in church mean to you? Should we meet in church during the pandemic?

Sister Siah Ghuan Chin who is 97 this year, was baptised in 2001. She had a very simple wish in the past 20 years - that is to come and attend Worship Service weekly. To this end, she has faithfully continued to come weekly, hungering for more of the Lord during Worship Services. The only times when Sis Ghuan Chin misses Worship Services is when she is ill and bedridden.

Despite being nearly 100 years old, Sis Ghuan Chin continues to attend Worship Services weekly, even during the pandemic.



Bro Phua Ngak Teck, sister Siah Ghuan Chin, sister Seet Hwang Yong (daughter) 14/11/21

[Hebrews 10:25]

Not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

[Psalm 23:6]

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

FEATURE



Sister Chng is over 70 years old and she has been troubled by many pains, and is greatly weakened in health. It has been more than a year since she was bedridden, being unable to open her eyes most of the time.

In Nov 2020, she kept pleading with her family to bring her to church. Her only wish whenever she is lucid is to go to church - wishing to attend Worship Service on-site at least once more before she passes on.

When the church was able to have 50 persons on-site for Worship Services, Sis Chng requested to be brought to church unceasingly. However, her family members were concerned over her weakened state and hesitated bringing her to church. But they conceded after seeing her desperate pleas and arranged to bring her to church on Tuesday 10 November 2020.

When she came, Sis Chng sat in her wheelchair conscious, but with her eyes shut as she soaked in the atmosphere of Worship. Despite knowing that she could pass on anytime, her greatest longing was to return to church to worship the Lord. Thanks be to our Lord who fulfilled her wish and brought her home to be with Him on 13 November 2020.

Sister Ng Siew Choo contracted COVID-19 in October 2021.

When the outbreak became widespread in Singapore, Sis Siew Choo did not dare leave her house, staying home most of the time. One morning, she went to the market briefly and felt unwell that afternoon. She then tested positive for COVID-19.

Thanks be to the Lord, Sis Siew Choo's condition was mild and she recovered after isolating at home for 10 days.

When on-site Worship Services started, Sis Siew Choo's mindset was to wait first and go later as she felt that the ongoing pandemic was still serious and dangerous. However, she later testified during Worship Service that the joke was on her when she said "Little would I know, God's way is above our ways, I got it even though I did not go to church. So, it does not mean you would not get it if you stay away from church."



Sis Siew Choo understands that the church has put in place numerous measures to protect our members - we only have to do our part by observing our own personal hygiene, wash hands diligently and keep masks on at all times, and to commit the rest to the Lord, the Lord will protect us. Amen!

“The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and forevermore.”

[Psalm 121:8]

The recent Combined Prayer Meeting on 16 January 2022 was the first on-site Prayer Meeting since the start of the pandemic. When our team of co-workers gathered to seek the Lord for direction, God impressed upon us that the Combined Prayer Meeting was not convened for us but for Him. We are citizens of God who need to be connected to Him just as John 15 tells us “...*apart from Me you can do nothing*”. This was how the theme “*Abide in God*” was derived.

As a team, the co-workers involved in the planning of this event continued to pray and seek God. We received a total of 5 prayer pointers which were used to guide our members in corporate prayer during the Combined Prayer Meeting:

Abide in God

1

Praying for self.

2

Praying for the nations: for the pandemic and economy.

3

Praying for Singapore, its government, leaders and economy.

4

Praying for the Church of Singapore.

5

Praying for the younger generations.

One of the things that the pandemic has shown us is how precious it is to be able to gather with one another physically. Nothing, not even digital interaction, is able to replace it completely. As such, our co-workers poured their hearts into serving in order to ensure that the first physical Combined Prayer Meeting in 2 years would proceed smoothly and be a blessing to all who attended.

Praise the Lord! This Combined Prayer Meeting was attended by many members who were ministered to and blessed by this session of corporate prayer.

Has it been some time since you have attended physical prayer meetings? Come and join us at the Wednesday Prayer Meetings and upcoming combined prayer meetings! More information can be on our website nearer the date. See you there!

Judy Siah

Mandarin Service SIC



UNITING GENERATIONS

Uniting everyone in the knowledge of Christ

We praise God we were able to gather in-person for our annual COS Thanksgiving Worship Service despite the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic! We are thankful that after 2 years, we are able to come together as one body of Christ to offer up our thanks and worship on the 1st day of the Lunar New Year.

This year's programme kicked off with a welcome address by Bro Wong Mun Chung. This was followed by an intergenerational medley of Lunar New Year songs that weaved in traditional oriental musical instruments such as the Er Hu (performed by Bro Daniel Foo) and western musical instruments such as the accordion and saxophone (performed by Bro Chao Tian Kong and Bro Trent Ng respectively).

The congregation then joined in as the worship team led us in a time of praise and worship. This was followed by

- *A moving testimony by Sis Eileen Ling, sharing her experience of God's presence, protection and miraculous deeds when she contracted COVID;*
- *A musical performance by Sis Xin Yi on the Gu Zhen (a traditional oriental musical instrument); and*
- *A short exhortation by Bro Foong Daw Ching on "Enter His Gates with Thanksgiving"*

Personally, I was greatly encouraged and lifted up in spirit as we soaked in the presence of God during this Service. Truly, the atmosphere of unity and relational building across the generations can only be experienced and forged through physical interaction. While we were thankful for technology which allow us to stay connected when prohibition of large group gatherings was necessary, we must not allow the convenience of such gatherings to replace the experience of gathering in person. Therefore, I encourage each and every one of you who are physically healthy and mobile to come back to church for on-site Worship Services as well as other church activities such as Life Group gatherings.

May the Lord continue to bless you and keep you as we look forward to meeting one another in-person. God Bless!

Judy Siah

Mandarin Service SIC


Coming together as One Body of Christ

COS Thanksgiving Service



UNITING GENERATIONS

Uniting everyone in the knowledge of Christ



#UG Cards

You may be wondering what are #UG Cards?

UG simply refers to “Uniting Generations”. It is a deck of conversational cards that are intentionally and carefully curated with the objective of facilitating honest conversations between members of different generations.

The idea for #UG Cards was birthed out of a review session after the October 2021 Combined Prayer Meeting. During this prayer meeting, participants were placed in small groups to share their dreams and prayers for COS. It was during this interaction that we observed the different generations desiring to share and edify one another. This led us to ponder how to encourage and empower the different generations to come together for this same purpose as these meaningful conversations not only edify, but promote understanding and empathy, both of which are much needed within and among the generations.

As we prayed, we received a download of the blueprint for these cards from the Holy Spirit - to create a tool in the form of conversational cards so as to facilitate meaningful conversations, and bring about stronger relational bonds and a stronger church as a result. This tool should be simple enough for it to be used in any setting.

With the blessing of our church leaders, we embarked on this project. It was not long before God opened our eyes to see that this was not just needed in our church, but across the nation! God also brought co-workers to partner us in this project.

It is my prayer that all who participate in #UG Cards

“may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that we may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.” [Col 2:2]

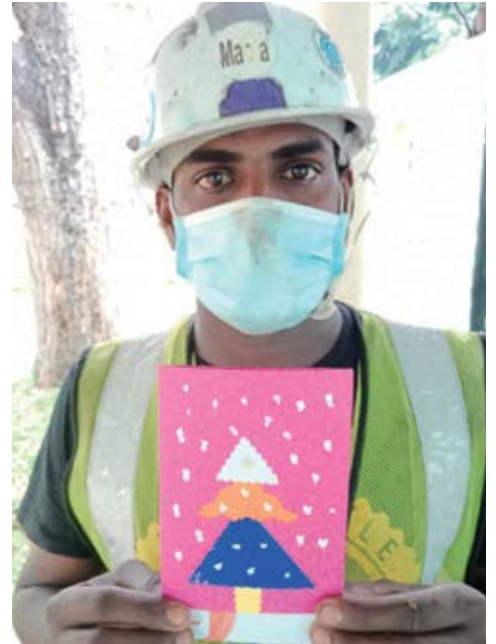
We covet your prayers as we continue to plan and work on this project.

Eileen Lau

Music Ministry Admin Staff
Communications & Media Ministry
Committee Member

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Proclaiming Christ to All



Bangladeshi Migrant Workers Ministry (BMW Ministry)

When the construction of the Thomson-East Coast MRT line began right outside our church walls, we saw an opportunity to serve and forge relationships with the many migrant workers. This was how the Bangladeshi Migrant Workers Ministry began.

The relationship with the Bangladeshi Migrant Workers gave us great insight into their needs during the COVID-19 pandemic. We were able to respond to those needs through the generosity of church members who donated much-needed essentials such as cash, masks, clothes and vitamins. Our young adults also rose to the occasion by helping to pack and distribute these essentials during the circuit breaker at the SG Accident Help Centre (SGAHC), as well as assisted with food distribution.

We were also able to work with SGAHC to provide support to migrant workers with physical injuries

that have rendered them unable to work. Once this happens, they are usually sent home without much income or compensation. Whilst most of them look forward to returning home, they are saddled with worries over losing their source of income.

To aid these migrant workers, COS blesses them with a financial gift of \$300 as a gesture of appreciation of their contribution towards our nation-building. To-date, we have been able to bless approximately 60 such migrant workers who received this gift with much thankfulness and happiness. This money will go a long way in helping to defray the cost of some of their needs when they return home.

Before the pandemic, we were able to organise large-scale outreach events for the migrant workers of Samsung C&T Corporation, who were constructing the MRT line right outside our church. It was only after the easing of safety measures that *we were able to bless 370 workers during Christmas 2021 with a lunchbox, gift vouchers and handcrafted greeting cards made by the children from Tung Ling Student Care Centre.* Several of them shared that they sent pictures of the greeting card to their families back home. They were happy to know that we had not forgotten them.

Through our continued outreach and work in our BMW Ministry, COS is glad to be able to make an impact in the lives of our migrant workers!

Henry Yeo
Missions Ministry Head

TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

Proclaiming Christ to All



Updates from the Myanmar Service

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ! It is a joy to be able to share with our COS family the ministry in Myanmar Service. We currently hold Worship Services, Bible study sessions and other activities in COS and Peninsular Plaza. These are mostly attended by blue-collared workers employed as domestic helpers or in construction companies.

Since the start of the pandemic, attendance has become highly erratic as employers are concerned with the movement of their employees for fear of them contracting COVID-19. Keeping in touch was also difficult as access to their mobile phones is limited and their contact numbers change frequently due to the use of pre-paid mobile services. Moreover, it is not uncommon for them to be sent home at short notice.

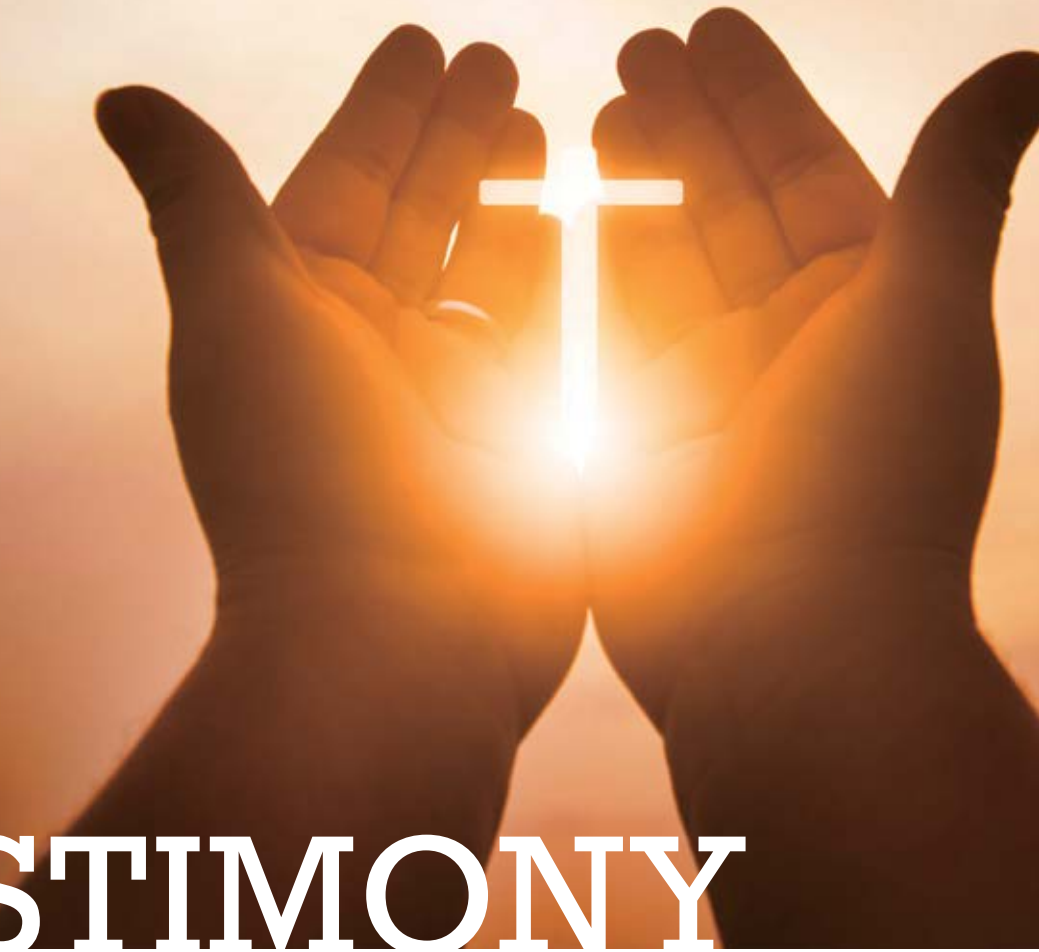
Despite these challenges, we continue to hold weekly activities and connect with those we are

able to contact through texts and mediations. Through these efforts, we hope to be able to build them up in their spiritual maturity so that they too will be able to minister to others while they are here in Singapore and when they return to Myanmar.

The ongoing military coup in Myanmar has also affected the local Burmese community. But God is able to use all things for His glory. We have had many coming to see us for counselling which gives us the opportunity to minister to those who are believers and share the gospel with those who are non-believers. In this way, we are able to draw nearer to God as a community.

If you have local Burmese friends or family members, invite them to our local community or join us as we serve our fellow brethren!

Peter Cho
Myanmar Service SIC



TESTIMONY

Indeed, God is faithful in keeping His promises!

In my family, my mother was the last person to accept Christ as she was very resistant to the Gospel. She warned us on many occasions to refrain from telling her about Jesus for she was a devout Buddhist who believed in idol and ancestor worship.

For years, my husband and I prayed for her salvation. In 2020, I started feeling desperate about her salvation and pleaded with God to make something happen. Little did I know that God had already devised a plan and a future for my mother.

In November 2020, my mother was diagnosed with third-stage lung cancer. In December 2020, things took a turn for the worse when she fainted during a routine morning exercise session with her friends. She was taken to the hospital in a semi-coma state.

When I visited her that afternoon, I asked her if

she'd like to know Jesus and to indicate 'yes' by waving her hands. Although she did not open her eyes, she responded by moving her right hand up and down! I led her in praying the sinners' prayer and though she could not speak audibly, I could see her lips moving as she repeated it after me. Not fully convinced that she had accepted salvation, I asked my brother to pray with her again when her eyes were open. This time, she waved her hands and shook her legs! Hallelujah!

Though she recovered partially from this incident, she was unable to remember much of her past. Despite this, we are thankful to see that she is able to raise both hands and regain mobility with the aid of a walking frame. She also regained a healthy appetite and started spending time to listen to hymns.

However, this did not last long. In March 2021, she began to become very drowsy, sleeping up to 20 hours a day, gradually losing the ability to walk, talk or eat. But praise the Lord, she consented to being baptised and we were able to baptise her by the sprinkling of water.

STORIES OF FAITH

In August 2021, I found a tumour in my neck that did not hurt. I went to the clinic for a check and a blood test. The blood test had reported a thyroid problem. The doctor wrote a recommendation for me to consult a specialist at the hospital.

On 1st September, 2021, I went to the doctor to have a neck ultrasound and a biopsy was performed using a fine needle. Based on the biopsy results, the doctor advised that I would be needing surgery - there was a 30% chance that the tumour was malignant.

The doctor gave me a week to discuss my illness with my family. At the same time, I was also praying to God; my children have grown up, my mission on earth has been accomplished and I was feeling very tired. However, can the Lord Jesus allow us to be negative?

At this time, a group of friends surrounded me like angels, praying for me and introducing me to doctors. I have a friend whose husband is a retired specialist, and I showed him the report. He advised me to go for the surgery and advised me to remove the right thyroid gland.

With the recommendation from another friend, I went to see a private specialist doctor. Thank God, the doctor is a Christian. He also advised that I should remove my right thyroid gland. I immediately decided to have surgery. On October 14th, Thursday, at 4 pm, the operation was performed to remove the right thyroid gland. The operation was considered incomplete as the doctor needed to do further testing on my tumor to see if it was malignant. If it was, I would need another operation right away.

4 days later, I was informed by the doctor joyously that I could be discharged - I remembered that it was a Sunday. It was also that same day when a long-lost sister called me with her first words being, **"Sister, I would like to pray for you. God is indeed amazing. Throughout your ordeal, He was present, paving the way for you. Glory to the Lord."**

Koh Siew Bee (Daisy)

Mandarin Service

Her health continued downhill and in the same week of her baptism, my mother became unresponsive and had to be admitted to the hospital on 11 April 2021. The next day would be the last time I saw her awake. On that day, together with Sis Siew Yeh (Mandarin Service), we prayed and worshipped God and my mother responded by making a thank you gesture with her hands. She was called home to be with the Lord on 17 April 2021.

Throughout her wake and at the funeral, we sang:

“

*I'm gonna march all around that city,
See my loved ones who had gone on before.
I'm gonna sit by the banks of the river,
Where we'll meet to part no more.
And in the sweet by and by
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.*

Ngo Soh Hoon
Mandarin Service

STORIES OF FAITH

On 5 Jun 2021, my brother-in-law Sim Lwi Sang was called home to be with the Lord after fighting a year-long battle with esophageal cancer.

Throughout his life, Lwi Sang was a free-thinker. This is despite his late mother and siblings are believers attending COS. However, in the early stages of his illness, Lwi Sang became open to prayer and visits from Bro William Ang (English Service). He was receptive of Bro William's sharing and prayers, admitting that they brought him much comfort.

On 9 Oct 2020, Lwi Sang finally prayed the sinners' prayer and received Christ. Our family rejoiced with much thanksgiving towards God's faithfulness. However, Lwi Sang was only able to attend 2 sessions of the Christian foundation class in preparation for water baptism before he was hospitalised and called home to be with the Lord.

Nevertheless, we know with confidence that Lwi Sang is now in the glorious presence of God and no longer in pain. All glory to God!

“For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

John 6:40, ESV

Nancy Sim
English Service



Let's keep praying!
Here are steps we can follow:

1. Build close relationships with them
2. Find out their needs
3. Pray for them regularly
4. Share your testimony
5. Share the gospel
6. Invite them to Sunday worship services and Gospel outreaches

Hello New Staff:

“ I have been worshipping at Church of Singapore for the past 19 years and have served in the Music Ministry since 2010. I have 3 children - Chloe, Caryl and Isaiah who are aged 20, 18 and 16 respectively.

In 2019, the Lord put the desire of studying theology in my heart and I enrolled in TCA College to obtain a Certificate in Ministry. At that time, my intention was simply to study and equip myself so that I will be ready to be called into service when the day comes.

It was not long before the Lord called me into full-time ministry. He was gracious to show me several confirmations, the final one being a dream that a sister-in-Christ from another church had about me joining the pastoral team in COS. It was similar in context to what Bro Paul Yeo had spoken to me earlier. I knew then, beyond a doubt, that God had called me.

All thanks to God, I now have a renewed and important purpose in life, and that is to serve Him with all my heart, and to bring Him glory!

Tracy Lim

Joined COS as a part-time pastoral staff with Bilingual Service on 1 September 2021.

Justin Sng

Joined COS as Ministry Head of Young Generation Ministry and Head of Finance, IT & HR on 1st September 2021.

“ Hello Brothers and Sisters! I'm looking forward to getting to know you more - here's a bit about myself. My mom and I came to COS about 35 years ago, as I attended Tung Ling Kindergarten when my family moved to Marine Parade. My wife, my daughter and I are blessed to be part of the Children Ministry, Youth Ministry and English Service communities, and to serve in these communities and in the Audit Committee over the years.

7 years ago, our Lord impressed upon me that there will be a generational transition of our full-time staff at COS. My commission as a youth leader was to journey with the younger generation who will be joining full-time. I also asked the Lord then if I was to join full-time. The Lord replied: "Do not be encumbered - I'm to leave my job whenever and wherever He calls me."

The Lord continued to affirm this calling over the past 7 years, through both personal encounters and confirmations from brethren who were not aware of my calling. The frequency of encounters and confirmations increased significantly in 2020, together with a deeper longing to serve our Lord in our COS community. I knew that the Lord's time had come, and I was to join full-time myself.

Praise the Lord!