



卫理公会直落亚逸礼拜堂
TELOK AYER CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

2022年 12月 December 2022
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水湾之声

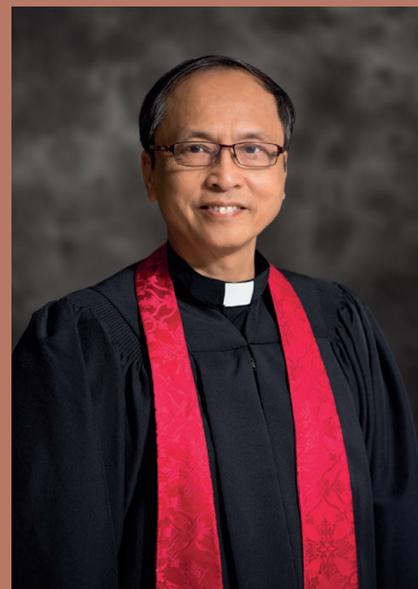
Ripples from the Bay

普世欢腾

Joy to the World

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蔡伟山牧师（主理牧师）

Rev Chua Ooi Suan

(PASTOR-IN-CHARGE)

普世欢腾

Universal Jubilation

近几年,冠状病毒在全球肆虐,使大多数的人皆受过感染;俄乌战争也直接影响全球的经济,通货膨胀令物价飙涨。因此,当下的日子不仅令人觉得经济拮据,更对世界未来的局势感到忐忑不安。看来,2022年的圣诞节似乎很难让人欢腾。

回顾第一个圣诞节,是因上帝听见人类的苦情,而差派祂的爱子来到人间,拯救人类脱离罪恶的捆绑、解决世人心灵的不安。对比上帝在旧约中差派摩西带领希伯来人出埃及的经历,基督的救恩更加伟大,因为耶稣救赎的对象及范围更加广大,其影响力从古持续到今,甚至到将来。

我们确实活在充满不安与苦难的世界,但主耶稣的救恩是上帝赐给世人的礼物。这份生命的礼物,从第一个圣诞节直到如今从未改变。我们见证了许多人透过与耶稣的相遇,生命经历改变,成为上帝的儿女。这成就了圣经的应许:「凡接待祂的,就是信祂名的人,祂就赐他们权柄,作上帝的儿女」(约翰福音1:12)。成为上帝的儿女可以说是圣诞节带给普世最大的礼物和喜乐!经过2千多年,蒙恩得救、成为上帝儿女的故事不断在普世万民中发生。

如何让普世得以继续欢腾?我们须负起当年天使报佳音的责任,受主的差遣去宣告救主的来到,进入人群活出基督道成肉身的生命,分享见证上帝救赎的恩典,使我们身边的未信者,有一天能因得着基督的救赎而欢腾,因有主的平安充满心灵而欢腾。

Everyone has, in some way or other, felt and continues to feel the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has also had an impact on the global economy, contributing to rising costs and inflation. Many live daily with a sense of uncertainty and money worries. Christmas 2022 might not appear to be a time for rejoicing.

But in the midst of all of this gloom, we look back on the first Christmas where God, hearing the plight and pleas of mankind, sent His beloved Son into this world to save His people from the bondage of sin and to calm our spiritual restlessness. The salvation offered by Jesus affects every person and continues from ancient times to the present and into the future. Jesus' death on the cross is thus of greater significance to humankind than the Old Testament exodus event where God sent Moses to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt.

God's gift of life offered by Jesus's death on the cross is a gift that will never pass away. The transformations in the lives of people who have encountered Jesus are testament to the promise in the Bible that "... to all who received Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become children of God" (John 1:12). Becoming a child of God is the greatest gift and the joy of Christmas. Even after 2000 years, we still continue to hear testimonies from people around the world who have been saved by grace to become children of God.

How then can we rejoice this Christmas amidst the uncertainty around us? Like the angels sent to announce the coming of the Saviour, we must share the good news of Christ and of the grace of God's redemption in our lives. In this way, pre-believers will one day also be able to rejoice because of Christ's redemption of Christ. When the Lord's peace fills their souls, they will be jubilant!

第47届华人年议会 直落亚仪堂2023年教牧委派名单

47th Session of Chinese Annual Conference 2023 Pastoral Appointments to Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

教区长
District Superintendent: 吴毅华牧师
Rev Andy Goh Yik Wah

主理
Pastor-in-charge: 蔡伟山牧师
Rev Chua Ooi Suah

传道
Preacher: 李丽萍传道
Pr Sharon Lee Li Ping

协理
Associate Pastor:

许立欣牧师	Rev Edmund Koh Lik Hng
吴钧杰牧师	Rev Jasper Ngoh Jun Jie
林明忠牧师	Rev Lin Minzhong
林国柱牧师	Rev Patrick Lim Kok Chu



恭贺本堂的林明忠牧师,林国柱牧师和已被委派到义顺北宣堂的庄俊勇牧师,在11月17日的华人年议会第47届议会的闭幕礼被按立为长牧。

The Church would like to extend our heartiest congratulations to Rev Patrick Lim and Rev Lin Minzhong and also Rev Bernard Chng (who is now serving at Yishun Methodist Mission) for their ordination as Elders, at the 47th Session of the Chinese Annual Conference (CAC), held at the Ang Mo Kio Chinese Methodist Church on 17 November 2022.



恭贺许立欣牧师获颁十年长期服务奖。我们为着您多年的忠心服事而感恩。

Congratulations to Rev Edmund Koh who was awarded the 10-year long service award. We thank God for your years of faithful service.

Tan Aik Ling

What *joy* means to me - A reflection for Christmas

Joy to the world, the Lord is come.

This familiar carol is sung every year at Christmas. What does joy here refer to? Is it a feeling? A state of being?

What comes to your mind when you sing or hear *Joy to the World* every year? I asked several friends what joy means to them and they said that it is a deceptively easy question that is actually difficult to answer! Here are some of their responses:



"Joy is a feeling of deep happiness and satisfaction."

"Joy is mundane happiness. Like, I am glad but it's so-so only."

"I used to think that Joy was a feeling. But now, I think it's a combination of trusting in God and having hope in Him."

"Joy is something you have despite your circumstances. It is different from happiness which can be fleeting. Joy is something deeper. It is an assuredness in something beyond your feelings."

"Joy is bursts of delight."

"It is the feeling of happiness, delight, pleasurable thrill...in the present (here and now) or short-term sense, triggered by something."



It appears that there are various interpretations of joy unique to each individual, and the word "happiness" was also used to describe joy.

A Google search of joy revealed many interpretations of joy. Scholars delved into the difference between joy and happiness and there were also several sites discussing the Christian perspective of joy. One common description of joy was that it is an inward feeling while happiness is an outward expression of the good and positive emotions felt, and another was that it is enduring and God-inspired while happiness is more short-lived and context-dependent.

While it is probably easier to be joyful when things are going our way, it is seemingly unthinkable to be joyful when we face difficult times such as the death of a loved one, a failed business, financial losses, an estranged relationship, or a defiant child. However, I am reminded of Job. Was joy absent amidst his sufferings? While researching Job and the topic of joy, I found to my surprise that there were many articles on this topic and under devastating conditions. Bible commentators opined that the reference to joy in the Bible points to the fact that joy is an essential component of Christian life.

Having read the various perspectives of joy during hard times definitely does not make journeying through a difficult period any easier. But the reassurance of God's presence makes me grateful, and comforts me that when I finally emerge from the hard times, I can look back with a grateful heart. That delayed joy will be one that is long-lasting.

Joy is a characteristic of people of God and is always found in His presence. As a child of God, what is your experience of joy? Take time this Christmas to reflect on what joy means to you and share this with your family and loved ones.

Joy is a characteristic of people of God and is always found in His presence. As a child of God, what is your experience of joy?



普世欢腾

许欣怡

将近110年前，世界第一次大战爆发了。战争爆发时，大家都以为这次的战争会在圣诞节前结束，如以往的战争一般，速战速决，不超过几个月就能恢复正常生活。不料，这一战竟然持续四年之久。死于第一世界大战的士兵人数远远超过了前一百年战争军队死亡人数的总和。

在难以想象的恐怖战争历史中，除了满有血腥和残酷的画面，1914年的圣诞节竟然目睹了前所未有的温馨事件。在西线的英德军队本是应该握着枪，见到敌人就开火，毫无顾虑地除掉对方，保住自己性命而保卫国家。圣诞节那天竟然出现了奇迹。军队们握着尽然是对方的手，交换的是礼物，不是枪火。他们没有暗地里埋伏，反而在光明正大的“无人地带”一起踢足球，一起为阵亡者举行安葬礼仪，一起唱歌，一同说笑，彼此祝贺圣诞节快乐，仿佛是多年相识的老朋友一般。他们在眼前看到的不是凶恶的敌人，而是站在同一阵线，同度过寒冷冬天、同样无法照常庆祝圣诞节的伙伴。即便是短暂性的暂停战火，暂时享受片刻的欢乐与和平，却成为终身难忘，永远无法取代的珍贵回忆，也成为了历史上独一无二的温馨战争情景。可惜1915至1918年的圣诞节不曾再有1914年所经历的温暖人心的休战情景。原来最大的敌人不是那与自己一样，有血有肉、有生命故事、但无奈离开亲人，成为了战争敌人。最大的敌人乃是无形、无情的仇恨与死亡。它们夺走了喜乐、平安、和生命。

遗憾的是：直到21世纪的今天，世界各地还继续在战斗中。无论是哪个国家，哪个阵营，哪个时代，其实人与人之间并不是对方的敌人。我们真正的敌人仍然是仇恨与死亡。你我身为基督徒更应该不分彼此，即使有差异，也不应该产生敌意。身为信徒，我们感谢天父上帝差遣独生子耶稣基督到世上。因耶稣无私的牺牲，成为我们完全的赎罪祭，我们才能够不再以上帝为仇敌，重新与祂建立关系，也与彼此和好。因为耶稣胜过死亡的权势，我们有永生的盼望，也以信心等待新天新地的到来。

世界第一次大战的圣诞节休战是短暂的，但上帝透过耶稣带来的平安与喜乐是永恒的。祈望我们每一个人能够体会到圣诞节真正的意义，同时与周围人分享上帝所赐的美好礼物。但愿普世可以享受平安，但愿普世能欢腾耶稣的临在。

Grace Tan En-Yu

Joy to the World

Every Christmas, we hear the carol "Joy to the World" being played in almost every shopping mall. The cheerful tune and lyrics exude a joyful spirit that brings optimism and hope. While most of us have heard the carol many times, do we know the story behind it?

The lyrics of "Joy to the World" were written by Isaac Watts in 1719. Isaac Watts was a well-known hymnist and English minister who composed many popular hymns, including "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" and "Our God, Our Help in Ages Past".

Did you know that, surprisingly, "Joy to the world" was not originally intended to be a Christmas carol? In 1719, Isaac Watts published a book titled "The Psalms of David". It contained poems based on the Psalms, and were interpreted in the language of the New Testament. One of the poems in the book was an adaptation of the second half of Psalms 98. Psalms 98 calls us to sing a praise song of joy to the Lord for he has saved all of us from our sins.

*Joy to the world, the Lord is come
Let earth receive her King
Let every heart prepare Him room
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing
And Heaven, and Heaven, and nature sing*

Fast forward to more than a century later, to 1848. That year, American composer Lowell Mason gave "Joy to the World" a tune. The tune was called "Antioch" and attributed to Handel.

Since the 20th Century, "Joy to the World" has become the most published Christmas hymn in North-America. Today, "Joy to the World" is one of the most popular Christmas carols.

This Christmas, let us worship God with joy and thanksgiving, for we are told in Psalm 98:4 to

“

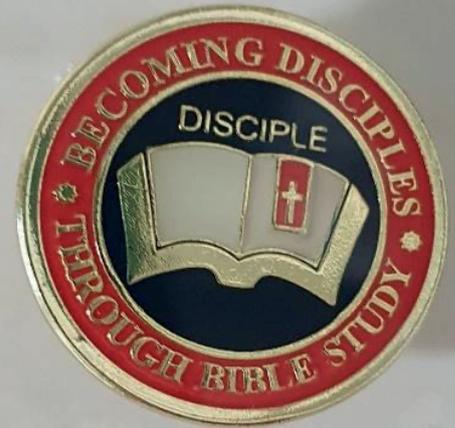
*Shout for joy to the Lord, all the earth,
burst into jubilant song with music.*

”



Tan Seng Chee

DISCIPLE Bible Study Programme in Telok Ayer



The TA English Service organized two DISCIPLE bible study programmes in 2022. These programmes were developed by the Disciple Agency (DA) of the Methodist Church in Singapore. DA's mission is to "build the Body of Christ through the promotion and development of the DISCIPLE Bible Study materials and other related programmes".

The DISCIPLE I programme offers an overview of the entire bible in a 34-week course and aims to build foundational knowledge for the other courses in the DISCIPLE family. The DISCIPLE II programme, entitled "Into the Word Into the World", is a 32-week programme that aims to engage participants in deeper examination of four books in the Bible: Genesis, Exodus, Luke and Acts.

DISCIPLE I

The 2022 DISCIPLE I class was held weekly from 19 Feb 2022 to 29 Oct 2022, and was facilitated by Rev Patrick Lim and Serene Sim. The 13 participants were Adele Ng Wai Sin, Angela Teo Gek Sang, Anthony Ang Khoon Eng, Eileen Lee Ng Fong, Esther Tan Mui Choo, Ivy Lim Chui Sian, Jim Lee Ching Siew, Ken Ng Hsin Li, Lee Kok Kiong, Lim Kah Seng, Lia Melinda, Marie Tan Li Wen, and Steven Chong.



DISCIPLE I participants receiving their certificates of participation from Pastor Daniel Lee on 20 Nov 2022

Below are what two of the Disciple I programme participants, Steven Chong and Lia Melinda, shared about their experience participating via Zoom from Jakarta, Indonesia.

Steven Chong

D1 has been transformational, changing (my) life, a great blessing in knowing Christ Jesus more...it has been the most life-shaping journey, the lessons broadened and deepened my spiritual walk with God and renewed my life. Moving from the 'Aha' to the 'WOW!', the experience has been most rewarding...I began to see and feel the spirit of the LORD moving within me, and I grew deeper in faith as a trusted believer of our God Almighty.



Lia Melinda

After completing the course, I am developing a relationship with God, which I never had before. I took the class with a desire to deepen my relationship with GOD and to learn how to be a better disciple of Christ through bible study... I had grown up attending church every Sunday in Indonesia. I read the Bible, but I didn't feel anything in my affections and my relationships that produced the worth, the beauty, the pleasures that expressed the love for Christ and the love of Christ...As I journeyed through the course, ... relationships were developed through the small group setting, and we love and encourage each other toward Christ-like character in our everyday lives...I learned so much from everyone and enjoyed all the laughter we had together.

DISCIPLE II

The 2022 DISCIPLE II class in TA, held weekly from 23 Feb 2022 to 12 Nov 2022, was facilitated by Rev Jasper Ngoh, and later by Tan Keng Hsin when Rev Jasper was on leave. The participants include Bernard Ng, Chong Soo Fern, Chng Siew Geok, Christina Chiu, Elizabeth Ng, Gavin Chan, Michelle Gan, Wong Mee Fong, Sandra Chiu, Siew Yee Kit, Tan Keng Hsin, Tan Seng Chee, and Teresa Teh.



Holy Communion on the last session of Disciple II



Farewell card for the participants



Participants who received their certificates for completing DISCIPLE II

The Following are reflection notes from the facilitators and several of the Disciple II participants.

Rev Jasper Ngoh (facilitator)

What a privilege to be in the company of 13 other disciples of Jesus as we journeyed with each other through 32 weeks of DISCIPLE 2 of disciplined rhythm in the Word and in the World...During these 32 weeks, the participants spent regular time studying the Word of God, reflecting on its meaning, practised the spiritual disciplines, and committed to letting the Word guide their daily living. Everyone's encounter with the living Word enriched my understanding of the Word in my world, and I have been blessed by the weekly sharing and testimonies every time we meet.

Discipleship is nothing less than a lifelong journey of growing in scriptural holiness as the Holy Spirit sanctifies and guides us to prioritise loving God and others each day. For these participants, we have seen evidence of the fruit of the spirit in one another.

“

But let us press on, keeping in step with the Spirit daily, bringing the transformative power of the Word into the world by the lives that we live. To God be the glory!

”

Tan Keng Hsin (participant/facilitator)

In my Disciple 2 journey, I was greatly blessed by the insights from Lesson 24 led by pastor Jasper. The message was a stern reminder that I am called to be a witness of Jesus' Death and Resurrection, trusting in God's continuing presence and the power of the Holy Spirit. This was especially evident in the life of Apostle Peter as recorded in Luke's Gospel and Acts of the apostles. In the Gospel, Peter was portrayed as an unschooled fisherman who had a serious commitment issue when put in stressful situations, not what most of us would expect of a trustworthy representative of Christ Jesus. Peter truly experienced and grasped how wide and long and high and deep the love of Jesus for him (Ephesians 3:18), that completely transformed him into a fearless spokesperson for Christ. My personal prayer from that lesson on is to know and to be known by the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge—that I may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. (Ephesians 3:19) Only then can I truly be a courageous witness for Him to a world that is blinded to how desperately it needs the resurrected Saviour's Love.

“

(Ephesians 3:19) Only then can I truly be a courageous witness for Him to a world that is blinded to how desperately it needs the resurrected Saviour's Love.

”

Chng Siew Geok

D2 has been fun yet challenging as we read Genesis-Exodus. I could feel myself entering into history and the spiritual footsteps of the Israelites as they left Egypt and moved into the wilderness as undeserving recipients of God’s amazing grace and mercy. Diving into Luke-Acts, it was great to look into Jesus’ and Paul’s powerful ministry from different perspectives. This helped me to go into the world to preach the gospel. The weekly focus on a particular area of spiritual discipline and the sabbath has anchored me and helped me to refocus and realign myself to what is really important as a disciple. I also enjoyed the fellowship during our weekly group meetings. The sharing of lives/prayers brought me much encouragement within this community of faith.

“
The sharing of lives/prayers brought me much encouragement within this community of faith.”

Gavin Chan

D2 has taught me deeper Bible-study skills and I have learnt much from the weekly sharing sessions. I am encouraged to reflect on the ‘Spiritual Disciplines’ suggested each week and to also practise them, keeping the Bible study related to faithful witness and service in the world. The best and most challenging segment is, in every lesson, having to make decisions about how we will respond to God’s Word in terms of ministry in the world.

“
Thanks be to God for this disciplined study of Scripture because I find life, light, meaning and grace in God’s Word.”

Bernard Ng

Each week, the D2 class started with viewing a video segment for that lesson followed by some Bible passages and text manual which gave further insights into the theme of that lesson. In the break-out groups, when we struggled with understanding some difficult passages, ...our facilitators Keng Hsin and Pastor Jasper always provided further background and explanation.

Chong Soo Fern

D2 is a heavy commitment so I initially hesitated to sign up. However, I thank God that I completed it and gained a deeper understanding of God’s salvation plan. Our God is faithful and never forgets His covenant with human beings despite our disobedience. The personal daily scripture reading assignment was a good spiritual discipline for me. Through the weekly group meeting, I benefited a lot from and was greatly inspired by my fellow members’ sharing and contributions.

“
Over the course of 32 weeks, we also grew in our fellowship and supported each other in prayer.”

Teresa Teh

I praise God for granting me the determination, wisdom and strength to attend the D2 Class. I’m thankful to my fellow brothers and sisters who have encouraged me and are praying for me in this spiritual journey.

Thanks be to God for this enriching experience which i summarise as:

- D** Discover the joy of reading God’s Word, helping me grow in...
- I** Intimate relationship with God and others.
- S** Seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit, God speaks to me through my daily readings.
- C** Called to live faithfully, to be an effective witness for God’s glory.
- I** Inspired by examples to share my thoughts on what Scripture is saying about my ministry
- P** Praying for the indwelling Spirit of Christ in my heart and praying for one another as we...
- L** Listen to the struggles we are going through
- E** Experience God’s unconditional love when we extend God’s grace to one another.

If you are interested in signing up for a **DISCIPLE** Course in 2023, please approach *Rev Patrick Lim.*



赞美平安君王耶稣

林明忠牧师

我太太和我一路走来很怕吵吵闹闹，有吵闹的地方，我们会感到不平安，会想办法赶快离开，我们希望尽快恢复平安的感觉。平安的感觉很好，也是我们信主的最根本原因，因为我们知道，真正的平安在于主耶稣，祂是平安君王。

在2012-2014年期间，平安君王三次呼召我，我在辨明呼召的期间，没有平安，我的耳边和脑海常常出现“以父的事为念”（路加福音2:49），直到2014年5月9日回应呼召，决定献身全职服事，我的心才恢复平安，那时候有一种奇妙的光明充满我的心，十分舒畅。我知道那是平安君王给我的嘉许。

回顾过去8年的受训和年议会试用的经历，我时时以心中的平安为指引。在很难作出决定的问题面前，我会列出几种可能性，向主祷告祈求，直到找到使我心平安的方式；偶尔有人告诉我：“林牧师，看到你就感觉到有平安。”我归荣耀给平安的君王，因为祂把平安充满在我的心，以

至于我的脸上能够显露一点点平安；疫情期间安排探访很有挑战，弟兄姐妹的回应方式各不相同，但是我凭着心里的平安为指引，尽力寻找迷失和软弱的羊，虽然还有一些会友找不到，或者有会友拒绝探访，但是因为我已经尽力，我心就有平安，但愿平安君王因着我的努力，亲自把平安赐予他/她们。

感谢赞美平安君王！2022年11月17日，我得到新加坡卫理公会的肯定，受按立为长牧，这全然是平安君王耶稣的恩典，因为我不但有福分参与祂的圣工，又能够享受祂的平安，这是何等的恩典！

展望前程，我立志全然顺服于平安君王耶稣，因为我知道祂掌管明天，我知道祂必与我同行。行文至此，我的脑海浮现上帝的话：

又要叫基督的平安在你们心里作主，你们也为此蒙召，归为一体，且要存感谢的心。（歌罗西书3:15）

我的心中响起那美妙的诗歌：

耶稣基督是至宝
是生命中的美好
十字架是我的荣耀
一生都跟随快跑...

但愿颂赞、尊贵、荣耀、权势都归给平安君王耶稣，直到永永远远！阿们。

【恭贺林明忠牧师在2022年11月17日的华人年议会第47届议会按立为长牧，并继续委任在我们堂会服事。感谢主！】





Richard Tay Tong Thiam
1927 - 2014

Archive Committee

Pioneers of Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church

The Chinese Annual Conference (CAC) Board of Archives and History has asked each of the 17 CAC churches to nominate a list of church pioneers, both past and present. Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (TACMC) has nominated 17 pioneers and starting with this issue, Ripples will be featuring the biography of these pioneers.

This issue features Richard Tay Tong Thiam, who was a Local Church Executive Committee member and an associate lay leader in TACMC.

*We're pilgrims on the journey
of the narrow road,
And those who've gone before us
line the way.
Cheering on the faithful,
encouraging the weary,
their lives a stirring testament
to God's sustaining grace. ¹*

Steve Green's song "Find Us Faithful" aptly describes Mr Richard Tay Tong Thiam - "gone before us" but who had encouraged and cheered on the faithful while he was with us.

Mr Richard Tay

■ was born into a Hokkien family and grew up at Cecil Street, just a few blocks away from Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church ². He was married to the late Lily Loh Geok Kee, and they had four sons: the late Daniel Tay Kah Hock, Andrew Tay Kah Su, David Tay Kah Peng, and Peter Tay Kah Ann.

■ grew up in an English-speaking environment, and attended Gan Eng Seng Secondary School. He first joined Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church by attending the English service, which had been started by Pastor Alfred Yeo in 1960.

■ started serving as the president of the English Methodist Youth Fellowship when he was about 15 years old and led his peers in small group bible study.

¹ Extracted from lyrics of Find Us Faithful © Birdwing Music, Jonathan Mark Music. The song was composed by Jon Mohr and performed by Steve Green.

On 8 November 1970, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church's English service was reconstituted as the Grace Methodist Church at Telok Blangah and Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church no longer had an English service. As Mr Richard Tay's family stayed near Telok Ayer, he wanted his family members to continue attending church. Fortunately, an English Sunday School class, taught by the late Mr Cheah Kuan Cheng, was set up, so Mr Richard Tay's family continued worshipping in Telok Ayer. However, when Mr Cheah could not continue teaching English Sunday School classes, Mr Richard Tay's family started attending Wesley Methodist Church.

In that time, Mr Richard Tay, however, still had a tugging feeling to return and serve in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. He did return and started serving as a steward in the Local Church Executive Committee. He attended the Hokkien service since that was the only service available then. Mr Tay was so determined to be able to communicate more effectively with the largely Hokkien and Mandarin-speaking leadership and congregation members that he even hired a private tutor to teach his eldest son Daniel Tay and himself Mandarin. What a sterling example of sheer dedication to stay close to the word of God! By this time, Mr Richard Tay, who had personally experienced the predicament of having to leave the church because of the inability to fully comprehend sermons preached in Hokkien, recognized the growing need for an English-language service in church. Many children of Hokkien-speaking church members were English-educated but there was no provision to meet the needs of this group of people.

From 1973 to 2000, Mr Richard Tay was serving as the Associate Lay Leader of the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. On 1 November 1982, the

pastoral team, led by the late Rev Lim Chee Beng, appointed Mr Richard Tay as the chairman of the sub-committee tasked to set up an English service in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. Other sub-committee members included the late Dr Gwee Ah Leng, Mr Liew Cheng San, the late Mrs Teng Ping Ming, and the late Rev Lim³. The sub-committee realised the criticality of addressing the challenges faced by English-speaking members, or risk losing the younger generation. It conducted a survey and held an urgent meeting on 12 Dec 1982. The survey findings confirmed the preference of many members for the setting up of an English Service. Mr Richard Tay wrote in the minutes of the meeting:

“
I am conscious of the heavy responsibility and the challenging task ahead of us in this endeavour, but I am also convinced that we will bear a greater responsibility if we lose sight of consolidating our members, especially the generations of English-speaking, and the future. I believe that if we are sincere and dedicated and our actions are in the words of the Psalmist

*“Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us,
But Unto thy name give glory.”*

We shall not fail to cause Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church to be a vessel in His Service.

”

² Most of this account was based on Richard Tay's descendants' oral accounts.

³ According to the report minuted on 20.12.1982 by Richard Tay, who was the chairman of the sub-committee on the introduction of an English Service in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church.



On 3 January 1983, the proposal to start an English service was accepted by the Local Church Executive Committee and on 6 February 1983, the new English service started and was well attended by close to 120 worshippers. In 1989, recounting the growth of the English Service, he wrote

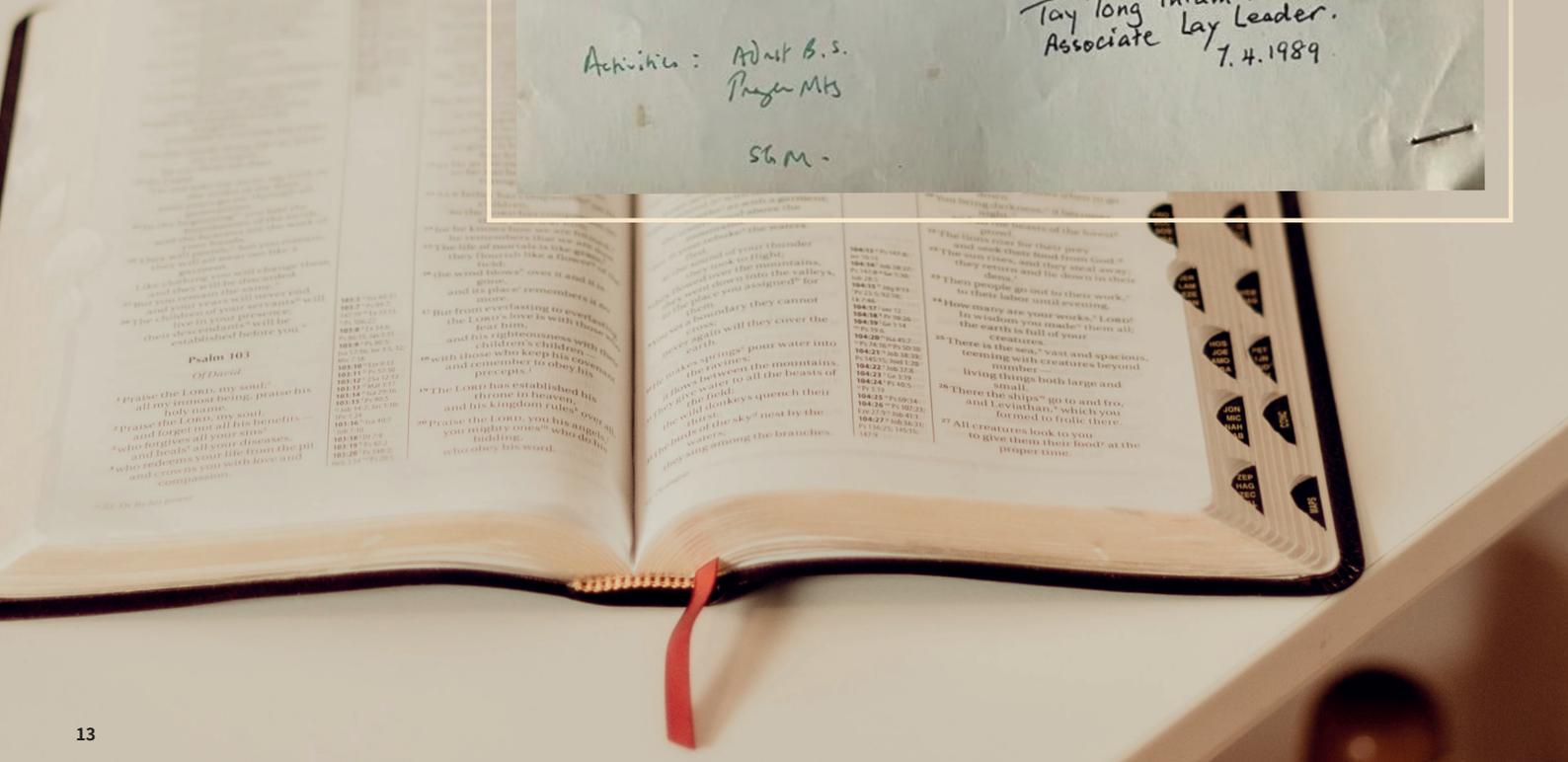
Now in our 7th year, our congregation has more than doubled the number of worshippers and increased our activities...We shall give a good account to God of our endeavours and be of effective service to mankind at large, and our congregation in particular. ⁴

Mr Richard Tay and his wife continued to worship in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church for many years. Mrs Lily Tay went home to the Lord in 2011 and Mr Richard Tay in 2014. Mrs Tay was well known for her dedication in preparing delicious breakfast meals for fellow church members. Their eldest son, the late Mr Daniel Tay, used to serve as the pianist for the choir and the English service. Two other sons – David and Peter – and their families are still worshipping in Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist today.

We will
joined in praising and glorifying God
morning. Pastor - Dr. W. 83 -
Pr. D. Lu 87 -
Now in our 7th year, our congregation has more than
the number of worshippers and increased our activities.
So long that we heed the words of the Psalmist
"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us
but unto thy name give glory",
we shall give a good account to God of our endeavours
and be of effective service to mankind at large, and
our congregation in particular.

Activities: Adult B.S.
Prayer Mtg
S.G.M.

Tay Tong Thiam Richard.
Associate Lay Leader.
7.4.1989





Mr Richard Tay's actions are a testament to his strong sense of responsibility about the salvation of his fellow members and future generations. He was fervent and dedicated in his service and was instrumental in setting up an English service again for the church after the last one pastored by Rev Alfred Yeo ceased more than 10 years ago. At a time when Singapore's language policy was still in an embryonic state, his foresight and actions helped to expand the influence of the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church.

All of us worshipping at the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church are beneficiaries of Mr Richard Tay's faithfulness and dedication. The footprints that he has left for us will continue to lead many to Christ.

*O may all who come
behind us find us faithful,
May the fire of our devotion
light their way.
May the footprints
that we leave,
lead them to believe,
and the lives we live
inspire them to obey.
O may all who come
behind us find us faithful.*

As part of the TA renovation, the TA Archive Committee is working on creating a Heritage Gallery. If you have any artefacts to contribute, please contact Mr Sebastian Lee.

⁴ Handwritten note by Richard Tay on 7.4.1989.

林明忠牧师

唱着歌儿进永恒 ——怀念荣誉执事李幼吟姐妹

幼吟姐走了，她是唱着歌儿进入永恒的。
幼吟姐于2022年11月14日回到她慈爱的天父亲面前。这篇文章是对《水湾之声》的创始编辑幼吟姐的致敬。

幼吟姐的一生与诗歌分不开。事实上，她的家族与诗歌分不开，家族里面的很多人，包括她的儿子洪一豪博士都在教会的诗班里面服事，她的女婿陈立寅博士是三一神学院老师，他的独唱给我留下深刻的印象，以为是天籁之音。

我澄清我尊敬幼吟姐，不是因为她的女婿是神学院的老师或者他美妙的歌声，而是幼吟姐活出爱的人生见证。

她爱兄弟姐妹。她父母早亡，有9个兄弟姐妹，她排行第二，生活的艰难没有压垮她，而是靠主刚强，在当老师之后，她把薪金的一部分拿出来抚养弟弟妹妹，不但是金钱上的帮助，而且是尽心努力抚养，处处为他们着想。难怪她们兄弟姐妹们的感情那么深，好几位家人都跟着她，一起在厦语诗班服事，我相信她的影响力很大。

她爱家人。她和禹盛兄结合带着戏剧性，虽然她们都来自印尼却不认识，虽然禹盛兄住在教会对面，也算是第三代的基督徒，他却没有走入教会，是上帝把她们安排到同一个培训教师的文凭班，又把她们分配到同一个小学任教，幼吟姐就把禹盛兄带入教会，带入诗班，她们结合

60年，一起唱歌60年。她也很爱她的孩子，即使他们早已成年，她也常常牵挂和爱护。

她爱上上帝和祂的教会。据了解，她是教会多年来忠心服事的执事，后来被教会执事会推选为荣誉执事，她不但在诗班赞美上帝；她也善用文学方面的恩赐，凡是文字方面的需要，无论是周年庆，还是教会特刊，甚至是特定人物的传记，她当仁不让，勇于承担重任。1997年12月，她凭着感动创办本堂的文字刊物《水湾之声》，兢兢业业、孜孜不倦地为这个刊物付出努力，使得该刊物在本堂建立口碑，迄今依然定期发行，影响深远。而且，幼吟姐也尽她所能，参与CAC年会资讯部的服事。

当然，生老病死是人生的规律，没有人能够逃避。幼吟姐也不例外，最近一两年，她的身体慢慢变得软弱，她需要时间来适应这种变化。有人告诉我，幼吟姐变了，她比较少和外人接触。我从一月开始接手厦语崇拜，就打电话给她，表示我很想探访她，给她领受圣餐，她拒绝实体探访，只需要电话里面的唱诗和祷告。在我的坚持下，她的心终于在9月24日打开，接受我去她家探访，那一次我们又唱又跳，我和禹盛兄还搀扶她走下楼梯又回去二楼。那一天之后，她

常常打电话给我，要求唱诗和祷告。我们常常宣告祂是主、耶和华是我的牧者、我的帮助从造天地的耶和华而来；我们常常唱感谢感谢耶稣，至好的朋友就是耶稣，我的心啊你要赞美主耶和华的圣名，等等。

我相信幼吟姐已经养成了赞美和祷告的习惯，因为她是唱着歌儿进入永恒的。11月13日下午5点左右，我们又通了电话，她要求我为她祷告，一方面是她的头绷得很紧肚子感觉到痛，另一方面是第二天要去诊所所做例行身体检查而感到困扰。14日下午她顺利地看了医生，回到家里吃了点心，又与禹盛兄唱了一首诗歌。后来她失去了知觉紧急入院，抢救无效而安息主怀。

美哉！幼吟姐是唱着歌儿进永恒！她必然也在永恒里面继续赞美！虽然我们心里忧伤，不舍得她，也会怀念她。但是我们都有那存在天上永恒的盼望，我们也知道，将来我们还会在主里再相见。

所以，幼吟姐：安息吧！祝愿您安稳在耶稣的手中！

Translated by the Ripples Editorial Team

Sing a Song into Eternity

—In Memory of Honorary Deacon Esther Lee Yiew Gim

Contributed by Associate Pastor Rev Lin Minzhong

Esther has bidden farewell to us...
She has entered into eternity
Singing a song!

Esther Lee entered into her loving Father's presence on 14 November 2022. This article is a tribute to Esther who was the founding editor of Ripples.

Psalms, Hymns, and Spiritual Songs featured significantly in Esther's life. In fact, members of her family, including her son Joshua Ang (who serves in the English choir) and son-in-law Mark Chan (who teaches at Trinity Theological College and has a beautiful singing voice) also share that close affinity to Christian music and singing.

I have immense respect for Esther because her life is a testament to what Love is. She loved her brothers and sisters. As the second-eldest of nine children who lost both parents early on, Esther, together with the older children, took on the responsibility of caring

and providing for her younger siblings. Despite that, she did not let hardship overwhelm her; instead, she relied on the Lord for strength.

After qualifying to be a teacher, she helped to support her younger siblings through school. It is no wonder then that they share such deep bonds, and most of the nine siblings have served together in the Hokkien choir through the years.

Esther loved her husband and their two children, Sophia and Joshua, dearly. How Esther and Oo Seng met, fell in love, and eventually got married makes for

an extraordinary story. Although they were both born in Indonesia, their paths only crossed in Singapore when they were adults. Oo Seng lived just across the street from Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church and could be considered a third-generation Christian, but he was not a churchgoer. But God works in mysterious ways – it is impossible not to see God's hand guiding Oo Seng into His house through Esther.



How else do you explain the fact that not only had Esther and Oo Seng come separately from different parts of Indonesia to Singapore, made the same decision at the same time to take up teaching, but also landed in teacher training diploma class and were then assigned to the same primary school? If this was not God's Providence, I do not know what it is. This is where it gets even more amazing. Esther had been attending church – not just any church but the one right across the street from where Oo Seng lived. So, it could only be a matter of time (in their courtship) that Esther would take Oo Seng to Telok Ayer Church. They also joined the choir and went on to serve in the ministry together for 60 years, singing His praises in all that time!



Esther with her family (Back, L to R: Mark, Sophia, Joshua. Front, L to R: Esther, Oo Seng)

Esther loved God and His church. She served as a deacon faithfully for many years and was later elected to be an honorary deacon. She used her musical and literary talents for God; she not only sang in the choir, but she also served in the Information Department of the Chinese Annual Conference. In church, she was involved in publications, and most notably, she pioneered the church's news magazine, *Ripples from the Bay*, in December 1997. From then on, she worked tirelessly to establish it as a key source of communication within the church family. *Ripples from the Bay* is still serving the church well even up till today.

Sickness, old age, and death are the laws of life. No one can escape them, and it was no different for Esther. In the past two years, she was less open to receiving visitors. When I became the pastor for the Hokkien worship service in January this year, I asked to visit with her and administer the Holy Communion to her. Although she did not feel ready for me to visit, she welcomed the singing of hymns and prayers over the phone.

Over time, she agreed to my visiting her on September 24. On that occasion, Esther, Oo

Seng, and I sang hymns together with much joy. Subsequently, Esther and I would speak over the phone, sing hymns and pray. We declared together that Jesus is Lord, Jehovah is our Shepherd, and our help comes from Jehovah, the Maker of heaven and earth. We sang songs of thanksgiving to Jesus, proclaiming Him as our best friend, and praising the Holy Spirit of the Lord Jehovah.

I believe that Esther was in the habit of praying to God and praising His name, and that she was singing even as she was entering into eternity. At about 5pm on Sunday, November 13, we spoke on the phone, and she asked me to pray for her as she was concerned about her medical appointment the next day. On the late afternoon of November 14, after she had seen the doctor and returned home and had some snacks, she sang a hymn with Oo Seng. Shortly after, she lost consciousness and slipped away.

How beautiful that Esther was singing as she stepped into eternity! She must surely also now be praising God in eternity!



Esther and Oo Seng



Esther singing during a 2019 Christmas gathering

Although we are sad to have had to part with Esther, and we will miss her dearly, we hold on to our eternal hope in Christ, knowing that we will one day meet again in the Lord.

Esther, rest in peace and safety in the arms of Jesus!

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