



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

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水湾之声

Ripples from the Bay



不可停止聚会
Not Giving Up Meeting Together

Contents

- 1 **不可停止聚会**
Not giving up meeting together
蔡伟山牧师 (主理牧师)
Rev Chua Ooi Suah (Pastor-in-charge)
- 3 **Self Introduction**
Rev Edmund Koh Lik Hng
- 4 **李丽萍传道自我介绍**
Preacher Sharon Lee Li Ping
- 5 **世界循道卫理宗华人教会联合会
第八届宣教大会**
陈明登先生 (宣教委员会主席)
- 7 **TA and TA2 restoration and upgrading works**
Mr William Toh Beng Chuan
(Chairman, Property Management)
- 9 **Ask me anything about Christianity**
Aunt Apologetics (Cousin of Aunt Agony)
- 11 **基督里的良伴课程2021 (第10班)**
Companions in Christ Small Group Study
2021 (10th Class)
- 14 **感谢妈妈和姐妹**
Celebrating Mothers and Sisters
- 16 **无畏人生**
Brave
许丽卿口述 (刘淑莲笔录)
- 17 **John Wesley crossword puzzle**

“你们不可停止聚会，好像那些停止惯了的人，倒要彼此劝勉，既知道那日子临近，就更当如此。”
(希伯来书10:25)

“...not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”
(Hebrews 10:25)



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

不可停止聚会 Not giving up meeting together

我在年轻信主后，时常被提醒说，信徒若不常常聚会，就像一根木炭离开火堆，木炭很可能会冷却熄灭。回顾这几十年信仰旅途的同路人，有些确实因习惯性停止聚会，没有保持与弟兄姐妹团契交流，结果就在途中迷失了。

不可停止聚会—要了解聚会的意义
有其他的圣经译本把“不可停止聚会”翻译成“不可放弃(give up)聚会”，或“不可忽略(neglect)聚会”。上一节经文阐明了聚会的意义及功能：又要彼此相顾，激发爱心，勉励行善(10:24)。这些行为与聚会有关的关系！因为生命的成长和操练需要有“彼此”，就是超过自己一个人的关系。

In my youth, after I had come to believe in the Lord, I was often reminded that if believers did not meet often, they would be like pieces of charcoal taken out of a burning pile, which would turn cold and extinguish. As I look back over the decades at my fellow travellers on their journeys of faith, it has struck me that some got lost on the way as they stopped meeting and did not maintain their fellowship and communication with brothers and sisters in Christ.

Not giving up meeting together – Understanding the Meaning of Meetings

There are Bible translations that translate Hebrews 10:25 as “giving up the meeting”, or “neglecting the meeting”. The preceding verse (Hebrews 10:24) clarifies the meaning and function of the meeting: to care for one another, inspire love, and encourage good deeds. These

Self Introduction

Self Introduction

不可停止聚会是我们与上帝有约

我们自从洗礼那一刻开始,就进入一个立约的信心社体。洗礼入会时立下誓约,决意将自己委身于基督,并公开表明愿意履行会友的责任—以祈祷,聚会,奉献才干和服事,积极地投入教会的圣工。所以,基督徒有双重约的关系,就是在上下垂直线与上帝的盟约关系,及左右水平线与弟兄姐妹的盟约关系。这种双重约的关系,需要信徒用一生去持守和加固。

不可停止聚会是操练爱上帝、爱人

过去2年多因疫情的缘故,多数信徒都能够参加线上崇拜,从而没有停止聚会,有些信徒甚至参加更多聚会,例如:线上小组、线上祷告会、线上圣经课程。是的,能够上线的弟兄姐妹没有停止聚会,值得我们反思的课题是:无论是线上或线下的聚会,是否能达到聚会的功能:爱上帝、爱人—彼此相顾、激发爱心、勉励行善(来10:24)。

不可停止聚会是蒙恩的途径,不是律法的约束

随着新加坡疫情的好转和安全措施的放松,恢复实体聚会某些信徒而言是非常期待的。然而,有些人已经习惯在线上聚会了。我们应该如何看待呢?当然,我们不要以律法或者道德的角度来衡量实体与线上聚会的对与错,而是认清聚会是上帝施恩的管道,是信徒蒙恩的途径。从圣经、神学、教育学等不同层面来看,线上的聚会缺乏了很多东西,例如:经历不到上帝赐予人类的5种感官的整体感受,就像我可以在线上与住在海外的子孙交流,但就是有“触摸”及“嗅”不到对方的局限。

弟兄姐妹,当趁身体健康,还能自由走动的时候,珍惜上帝给我们的机会,从“不停止在线上聚会”进到“不停止在实体的聚会”。主是我们的帮助。阿们!

are actions made possible when people meet together! Because the growth and practice of Christian life require “mutuality”, that is, a relationship that is beyond one’s own.

Because of our covenant with God, we must not stop meeting

From the moment we were baptized, we have entered into a covenantal faith community, with the determination to commit ourselves to Christ, and the willingness to fulfil the responsibilities of membership—by praying, meeting, consecrating our talents and serving, and actively engaging in the work of the church. Therefore, Christians have a double covenantal relationship, that is, the vertical covenantal relationship (with God), and the horizontal covenantal relationship (with brothers and sisters in Christ). Believers need to maintain and strengthen this double covenantal relationship throughout their lives.

“Do not stop meeting” is to practise loving God and loving people

In the past two years, due to the pandemic, most believers have been worshipping online, and in this way, they did not stop meeting. Some believers even participated in more meetings than they had before, such as in online groups, online prayer meetings, attending online Bible courses, and so on. Yes, the brothers and sisters who could go online did not stop meeting, but the question that deserves our attention is whether online or offline meetings can achieve the function of meetings as described in Hebrews 10:24: to love God, love one another- care for each other, inspire love, and encourage good deeds.

“Do not stop meeting” is a means of showing grace to others, and not to be imposed as a moral requirement

With the relaxation of pandemic safety measures, some believers are looking forward to gathering together again face-to-face. However, others are now used to meeting online and may prefer to continue to do so indefinitely. How should we handle this? We must remember not to insist, based on morality or legalities, on physical or online gatherings, but rather recognize that meeting together is a means of God’s grace and a way for believers to receive grace. From various perspectives, including biblical, theological, pedagogical perspectives, online meetings are lacking in a few areas. One aspect is not being able to experience with the five God-given senses; just like how I can be communicating online with my children and grandchildren who are overseas, but I am not able to “hug” and “smell” them.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, as long as we can move around, we should cherish the opportunity that God has given us to not only “not stop meeting together” but to also “not stop meeting together physically”. May the Lord be our help. Amen!

Dear TACMC,

It has been a joy to worship together with you since January this year. With the lifting of pandemic restrictions, I now look forward to meeting more of you in person. However, I know there are still many of you whom I may not get round to meeting for a while more, so here’s a little bit about myself.

I grew up in Grace Methodist Church, just next door to TA2, and spent many wonderful years serving in the youth ministry there. My parents and sister’s family are still worshipping there.

I started my working life as a Chemistry teacher at St Andrew’s Junior College. After having taught for about five years, I felt God’s call to serve Him in the mission field of Thailand. After a process of wrestling with God’s call, I resigned from teaching and, with the support of my home church, served with the missions organization OMF in Thailand for two years, in a province in central Thailand called Nakhon Sawan (city of heaven).

Returning from Thailand, I enrolled at Trinity Theological College (TTC) with a deep conviction that the season had come for me to learn to love God with all my heart, soul and mind. And I joined the Chinese Annual Conference as a pastor after graduating from TTC.

TACMC is my fourth appointment as a pastor, having previously served in Hakka Methodist Church, Changi Methodist Church, and Holy Covenant Methodist Church.

I am married to Jillian, my best friend and confidant, whom I first met while teaching in SAJC. She runs Sterling Campus, an organization that focuses on teaching the Biblical worldview, and her passion is helping Christians understand that their faith is relevant for all of life.



Rev Edmund Koh teaching in Uthai Thani, Thailand

In my free time, I enjoy reading, exercising and occasionally, making bread.

In coming to Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church, the oldest Chinese Methodist church in Singapore, I am mindful of stepping into a deep and rich tradition. I am immensely grateful for the sacrifice and commitment of our church pioneers, whom God used greatly to grow the church to what it is today. I discover familial connections of members across the different language services and across the generations, some spanning 6 or 7 generations even! Although this is not unique to TACMC, but it is especially pronounced given its long history.

It is my prayer and hope that even as we are grateful for our rich heritage, we will also look forward with faith and hope for even greater things that God will do in and through us in the days ahead (John 14:12).

May God bless you!



Rev Edmund Koh
and his wife Jillian

李丽萍传道自我介绍

Preacher Sharon Lee Li Ping

我自小在基督化的家庭长大,十五岁那年蒙主呼召,将生命的主权交给神。之后我在长老会华文教会参与崇拜和事奉,这个阶段是我事奉生命的启蒙阶段。

经过六年的职场工作后,我于2003年回应上帝的呼召进入三一神学院接受装备。我在神学院认识了我先生(林天源牧师),并在毕业后嫁到东马砂劳越。在古晋生活近三年的期间,我在卫理公会教会全职事奉,并生了大女儿睿涵(今15岁)。之后,我们迁回新加坡,并在卫理公会教会事奉。三年后,我们得一子祈恩(今12岁)。

当一切看似安稳时,我们却发现夫妻俩同时全职服事,要在家庭与事奉的需要之间取得平衡不易。为了不忽略孩子的成长,我转以部分时间在圣公会圣安德烈座堂事奉。时间一晃,便是十年。孩子逐渐长大,因此我恢复全职事奉。这期间,感谢上帝为我们家再添一子,仰恩(今7岁)。

今年,我再次加入年议会,并被委派到直落亚逸礼拜堂。这几个月在教会里受到牧者、同工、领袖和弟兄姐妹热情的欢迎和友善的接待,使我感到被接纳,为此心存感恩。接下来我将协助牧师,着重于华语崇拜的牧养服侍,并与教牧和领袖们同心配搭,按上帝托付直落亚逸堂的使命一起前进。最后,盼望与弟兄姐妹们透过蒙恩的途径,一起学习作主的门徒。



这一届的世界循道卫理宗华人教会联合会(WFCMC)的宣教大会是由新加坡华人年议主办,5年一次的宣教大会再次的让世界各地的华人卫理教会同时聚焦在耶稣基督所嘱咐的宣教大使命上。特别这是在疫情阶段,也是第一次的线上线下大会更是有着特别的意义。

世界循道卫理宗 华人教会联合会

陈明登先生
(宣教委员会主席)



道成肉身的神,
是宣教的神
(Missio Dei).
所以神的子民便是
是宣教的子民。



交接礼

这次大会的主题是「传承生命，接棒同行」。苏诺铭荣誉会督分享了主题信息：“与基督的合一，与信心社体的合一，及同心向世界宣教的合一”，很清晰的提醒了众华人教会首先要与基督连接，做醒，与基督合一；并且效法三一神，认识社体（如同身体）的合一性，认识社体（如同身体）的多样性，操练独处与社体合一的教导，成为同心合一的社体；一口一心，完全献给主使用，向外扩展福音宣教事工。三位专题讲员也引用圣经中的《使徒行传 1:4-8》教导宣教的理念；以《帖前 1-3 章》书教导在当下各地的苦难，战争，疫情的终末时代，认定身份，恒守「信望爱」，与主结伴同行，成为坚忍的教会；以《启 21:1-5》教导参与神救赎更新世界的计划，即信徒，社体，与大地的修复与更新。各地的华人卫理教会与宣教机构通过精彩与丰富的工作坊分享了他们在宣教的事工，通过不同的渠道，综合线上线下宣教，散聚宣教（diaspora missions），植堂，医疗，营商宣教，难民事工，原住民福音事工，社区及教育等各方方面的宣教模式把福音广传，参与神的宣教工作。大会也谈到宣教的使命需要传承，培育青少年对宣教的意识与召命，也要关顾为宣教而奉献的宣教士家庭的安全与风险管控。各个领域的宣教士分享了他们的宣教个案更让我们开阔我们的视野，看见神的禾场的广大，需要与挑战。

感谢主，这次大会让我们看到在这纷乱的年代，神仍然在工作，各地忠心的华人卫理教会与信徒热心的参与。约翰·卫斯理的成圣教导，全包涵在一个「爱」字里面：是「尽心，尽意，尽力的爱神；也当爱人如己」。祈望世界循道卫理宗华人教会继续与神同心，同工，同行，同步，爱神也把祂的爱，祂的福音传到世界地极，荣耀祂的圣名！

TA and TA2 restoration and upgrading works

Mr William Toh Beng Chuan
Property Management
Chairman



Falling roof tiles, faltering lifts, and failing air-conditioning units. These are just three of the numerous structural issues our church has been facing in recent years. These practical issues, coupled with the church's vision to grow its service to God both in the CBD and in Telok Blangah, made it necessary to restore and upgrade our two church buildings.

TA

In the case of the TA church building, after Fraser Tower next door was completed in mid-2018, it became timely to consider how the church building should be restored and upgraded. This was especially since the last significant round of restoration works was completed 27 years ago.

In January 2019, after having called for tenders and seeking approval from the CAC Building Committee, and consulting architects, the

church budgeted \$3,000,000 for the TA church renovation project.

As the TA building is a national monument, the church took care to consult a material conservation surveyor to ensure that the right materials will be used in the restoration effort. The church also applied for grants from the National Heritage Board (NHB) to help support the financial demands of such a project.

In August 2019, during the church's 130th-anniversary celebrations,

exciting plans for the TA building were unveiled. According to the proposed timeline, the main tender for construction was scheduled to take place in February 2020, right after the Lunar New Year period with works expected to be completed by April 2021.

When the Covid-19 pandemic struck in early 2020, the plans were derailed and works came to a standstill. The decision, made in May 2020, to defer the project for six months, was the first in a string of similar decisions.

In November 2020, the church deferred the works again until September 2021, although God had provided the church with a \$583,000 grant from NHB. In June 2021, there was yet another deferment to the first quarter of 2022, and by that time, construction cost estimates had significantly exceeded the original \$3,000,000 budgeted.

TA2

In about 2019, the TA2 building also had its own upgrading needs.

The church had in late 2018 started discussions with Little Seeds Preschool to partner together to continue the ministry of serving the needs of the neighbourhood through the ministry of early childhood education, and that would require some changes to the TA2 infrastructure.

In July 2019, the church considered upgrading TA2 in phases, including building a sheltered linkway to connect Ruth Home (the building next door to TA2) and TA2 for easier and safer access of adults and children from the preschool, installing a second lift to aid our ageing congregations, expanding toilet capacity etc.

What was estimated in March 2020 to be a \$300,000 project grew, by November 2020, to become an \$800,000 project. To complicate matters further, the air-conditioning units in TA2 broke down in January 2021, and the audiovisual system, which had been marshalled as best as possible to support the live streaming of services, was also in need of upgrading.

DIFFICULT DECISIONS

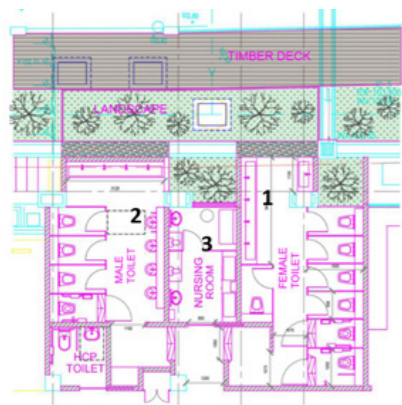
Clearly, mushrooming costs had become a major and looming issue, given the changing global geopolitical situation and economic challenges brought about by the pandemic, shortage of workers and building materials, inflation from Russia's war with Ukraine, and lockdown of various cities in China. There were also additional consultation costs as further inspections revealed that additional repair works were required. All these changes meant that the costs had ballooned from the original budgeted amount of \$3,000,000 to more than \$5,000,000.

From June to August 2021, with both TA and TA2 projects still hanging in the balance, the church considered different options on how to proceed. What mattered

to the church leadership was being faithful to God's leading in terms of growing His kingdom, continuing sound stewardship of resources, and maintaining church unity throughout the decision-making process.

After much prayer and many rounds of discussion, the LCEC decided to follow the advice of the church's Tender Committee, which had conducted a Value Engineering exercise to determine the items that were essential and those that were not. At the end of 2021, it was decided that the upgrading works on the TA2 building be carried out first (with the tender being awarded to Top Zone Construction & Engineering), before the church continues with its plans to restore and upgrade the TA building.

In Feb 2022, works at TA2 started with the target completion date of 1 Sep 2022. 1 Sep 2022 is also the date that the works at TA are expected to begin. It has been a long journey fraught with many challenges and the task ahead does not look easy, but we continue to trust God to provide even as we seek to do His will in our ministries.



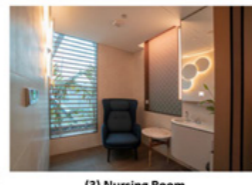
1ST STOREY PLAN



(1) Female Toilet – Sink area & garden area



(2) Male/Female Toilet Cubicles



(3) Nursing Room

Sample of TA2 renovation plan, including renovation of toilets and installation of a nursing room

Ask me anything about Christianity

AUNT APOLOGETICS' (COUSIN OF AUNT AGONY)

Dear Aunt Apologetics,

Some people doubt the existence of the spiritual realm. For example, they say that "demonic possessions" could actually be hallucinations or delusions, which are symptoms of mental conditions such as schizophrenia. Is there really evidence of a spiritual realm?

From, Thomas See Ing

Dear Thomas See Ing,

The belief that the natural or material world is all that exists, or that natural causes can explain everything in our world, is generally known as **naturalism**. This belief is not new and can be traced as far back as ancient Greece, India, and China. Naturalism underwent a revival during the Age of Enlightenment (17th and 18th centuries) when science played an increasingly important role in influencing public discourse and thought. It continues to be popular today as we learn more about how and why things work through the advancement of science, medicine, and other fields of study. (This is definitely an over-simplification, but it should suffice for our purposes.)

But we need to recognise that the belief in naturalism is what we call a "self-defeating statement" – if only physical things exist, then this "belief" (in naturalism) does not and cannot exist, because the belief is itself not physical. In addition, **the belief that natural causes can explain everything in our world is also, in itself**, a metaphysical statement, that is, a statement that cannot be reached through objective studies of material reality. It is an untestable assumption that cannot be proven or disproven in a laboratory or by any scientific method and can only be taken in good faith. Sounds familiar? Taking something (which cannot be tested by any scientific method) simply in good faith is what many people say Christians are doing when we talk about God.

When people say that they doubt the spiritual realm, **we need to ask them exactly what they are doubting**. Are they doubting



¹ Apologetics refers to a branch of theology that focuses on defending the divine origin and authority of Christianity through systematic discourse and argumentation.

the existence of God, the soul, or heaven? Then will we be able to help address their doubts or questions effectively? We should not downplay that science does explain a lot about how the world around us works. But as Christians, we must be very clear that **science and Christianity are not incompatible**. (This is a double negative, so read carefully!). According to Baruch Shalev's *100 Years of Nobel Prizes*, more than 65% of the winners were identified as Christians, and over 20% were Jewish. Just under 11% of the winners held no belief in God. Many of the contributors to the Scientific Revolution² were also men of faith, such as Copernicus, Kepler, Boyle, and Galileo. So let it not be said that science and Christianity are not friends.

But is there **actual evidence** of the existence of a spiritual realm?

Well, the answer is no if you are talking about proving it or disproving it in a laboratory or a test tube. But if you are willing to accept the Bible's historical authenticity, it is **explicit about the existence of a spiritual realm**. For example:

- John 3:6 and 1 Thessalonians 5:23 mention that in addition to our body (material), we also have spirit and soul (spiritual) – *"Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit."* and *"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."*
- Ephesians 6:12 says that *"For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of his dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."* Verses such as Ezekiel 28:11-17, Isaiah 14:12-15, and Revelation 12:7-9 also talk about the evil that is in the spiritual realm.
- The Bible also has numerous references to demon-possession or evil spirits, such as Mark 5:1-20, Matthew 15:21-28, Matthew 9:32-34, Luke 9:37-42, Luke 11:14-23, and Acts 16:16-19. These are presented as factual accounts and not depictions of hallucinations or symptoms of mental conditions.

Apart from the Bible, there is also **substantial testimonial evidence** about the spiritual realm. Across cultures and civilisations, races and religions, there have been many documented testimonies and narratives about experiences with the spiritual realm. It would take a lot of "faith" to believe that all these are not true and can be explained away simply using science.

We live in a world where doubt is cast on almost everything, so we need to be confident in grounding our beliefs in what is unchanging, eternal, and true – the word of God and God Himself – *"They are not of the world, even as I am not of it."* (John 17:16)

Ask Me Anything About Christianity!

Have a question on the Christian Faith or on issues relating to Christianity? Please submit them at <https://forms.gle/FGKKnQApz4wnGfFm8> or through the QR code, and we will answer them in subsequent publications of *Ripples from the Bay*.



Young Earth or Old Earth?

We shared about the age of the earth in the last *Ripples From The Bay*. If you are interested to find out more about Young Earth Creationism, you can visit <https://creation.com> or <https://answersingenesis.org>

² Scientific Revolution refers to a period during 16th to 17th centuries when scientific thought replaced the Greek view of nature and marked the beginning of modern science.



基督里的良伴课程2021 (第10班) Companions in Christ Small Group Study 2021 (10th Class)

导师: 黄元修传道
Ps Peter Wong

再次参与并带领《基督里的良伴》，使我再次肯定当年的感悟：圣灵是我们的导师，他教导、引领并陪伴我们。不止是在星期四晚上的聚会，在生活中，在职场里，在家里，在各种场合，他都与我们同在。

渐渐地我们属灵的眼睛开了，也能察觉体会到上帝的同在。由此，良伴们的分享里，感恩之事加增，喜乐之情洋溢。虽然有时有些分享的色调并非明亮--比如一些心灵事件的挣扎，但是上主在我们当中，圣言在我们心里，真心地分享，专注地聆听，所以分享过后，愁绪悄悄离去，平安留在心里。而良伴们的属灵友谊也加深了。。。可不是吗？在最后一两个月，我们都不舍得散会呢！

然，结业退修会到了，回顾过去28周的旅程，属灵友谊之外，我们还有不同的得着。于我，是写属灵日志。我愿意继续地写，因为书写使我能更深入察觉自己和上帝的关系... 结业了！但，旅途未终，愿与良伴们同心与基督耶稣同行。阿们。

蔡宏典弟兄
Mr Chua Hong Tian

This course helps me to develop certain daily patterns that open my life to a closer relationship with God. In this course, it teaches me how to meditate on God's Word. The first stage is slow reading and reading the passage a few times. The second stage is to hear and explore special words,

images or phrases. The third stage is prayer, in which I can speak to God. The last stage is a time of quietness and resting. Whenever I get busy, tired or can't quieten down my heart, I will remember Psalm 46:10 – "Be still and know and I am God". It is time to let go and listen to God, trust God and not to worry. Another thing I learned in this course is to pray at all times, prayer refreshes my spirit, it renews my strength and reaffirms that God is with me. Breath prayer is one of the prayer methods I enjoy daily now. I will also use the sample covenant for a covenant discipleship group to act as a reminder and practice the listed disciplines in order for me to grow deeper in God's love.

吴仁杰弟兄
Mr Andrew Goh

The joining of this course is another milestone for me. It strengthens the "Road to Discipleship" and other areas of my spiritual life. Going through different topics has enhanced my understanding of the many aspects of discipleship, including meditation, means of grace, different types of prayers, calling to serve and spiritual gifts. At the end of the course, we can continue to reflect on God's teaching and use them in our daily lives, helping others and helping ourselves. More importantly, we have also forged stronger relationships amongst fellow brothers and sisters.

陈秀玲姐妹
Ms Irene Tan

Companions in Christ has helped me to open more to God and to one another in the group. Through the weekly reading and reflection, they have drawn me closer to God. I was able to experience heart to heart time with God, uncovering my thoughts and recalling where God has been present in my daily life. It also has helped me to stop and reflect on the Word of God as well as other members and their weekly sharing and contribution. My knowledge of the Bible is enhanced and I learned so much about God, about His pursuit of us regardless of what we have done, and that He loves us and He wants to be in relationship with us.

郝洪娟姐妹
Ms Hao Hong Juan

我参加《基督里的良伴》课程学习，不仅认识了多位优秀但却虔诚谦卑的良伴们，也通过两位优秀导师的教导，让我学习到如何运用不同的方法进行属灵操练，比如：呼吸式祷告、灵阅、每日默想省察等等。运用这些属灵操练，让我学习如何专心聆听上帝的话语，如何反省自己的言行，如何做一个谦卑且专心爱主，信靠主的人。虽然是通过网络学习，但兄弟姐妹们的学习热情，积极分享，美好见证与实体学习丝毫没有差别，一样让我感受到他们的真诚、谦卑、爱心和包容！让我看到他们是如何爱人，爱主，甘愿为主做盐，做光！

林小燕姐妹
Ms Sharon Lim

在这课程中我学习到对上帝要有正确的看法。我一直以来有错误的观念，我并没有把上帝看为慈祥的，而是把他当成执法的审判官。其实不是这样，他不会因为我的情绪低落而不愿意与我亲近。这个课程帮我纠正了这个错误的观念。它让我学习到祷告时我不需要怕，上帝不会对我们感到厌倦，因为上帝不是人，他是上帝。上帝是信实的，他有一颗怜悯的心，他能够明白也能够接受我的烦躁，恐惧的情绪。他时刻都在期待我来向他诉说我心里不满。我也学习到祷告时，我不单单可以遇见上帝也能遇见真实的自己，那是最好的让我们处理自己情绪和恐惧的方法。

丁珮珊姐妹
Ms Velma Teng

The CIC journey was made all the more wonderful and enjoyable because of the companions. By God's divine arrangement, He placed the nine of us together and grew us from acquaintances/ friends to spiritual companions. CIC has taught us to support one another spiritually and to discern God's will together through actively listening and praying. I am very encouraged by my companions' honest and authentic sharing, and by how they have encountered God in their lives. I am also very grateful for their love, concern and prayers for me. Truly, they have exemplified what it means to be a community of grace. After being spiritually nourished from this course, I am reminded once again that as followers of Jesus Christ, we are to offer our lives for God's use and share His love with the people around us. My prayer is for me to be obedient to God's will and to be faithful in all that He has called me to do. And to bear fruit for Him, I need to remain in the vine, for without Him, I can do nothing (John 15:5).



导师：洪培正牧师
Rev Timothy Ang

感谢上帝，让我有机会参加并协助元修传道带领今年的基督里良伴课程，也跟另外7位良伴们走过这个灵命塑造的路程。今年的课程完全在线上进行。感谢上帝提供现代科技，让我们在疫情当下还是能够顺利完成此课程。

我个人有三方面的得着：感动、互动、行动。

课程深深感动了我，因为从中感受到上帝的临在。课本的一句话给我留下特别深刻的印象：就是当我们祷告，“我们选择来到一直与我们同在的上帝的面前，回应那位不断寻找要与我们沟通的上帝。”感谢上帝，让我透过课程所教导的属灵操练亲近这位不断愿意亲近我的上帝，也因此越来越享受读经、默想、祷告等操练。

彭琳璐姐妹
Ms Peng Lin Lu

课程也是良伴们彼此互动的机会。我们的背景和经历都不同，但是同一位真神在我们每一个人的生命中动工。课程就让我更敏感于上帝在我们个人和群体生活中的手印。我们也建立了属灵友谊，甚至在课堂外继续交流，彼此关顾和扶持。一周接一周，见证上帝在弟兄姐妹身上的作为，也经历其他良伴们的关怀，对我是极大的鼓励。

有了感动和互动，就该以行动回应。我认为上帝在督促我更认真地看待我个人灵命的塑造，以及与我一起行走天国路程的属灵良伴。这包括小组生活。任何一位信徒，包括牧者传道人，都需要有属灵良伴。自己操练过合神心意的生活不容易，有了基督里的良伴，路就比较容易走，甚至是能够享受的。

在这个基督里的良伴课程中，让我学习到不同读经祷告的方式，学习聆听上帝的指引，向上帝敞开心扉，发掘上帝给的恩赐，端正自己的态度，一步一个脚印的扎根在主的话语里，在圣灵的引导下行事为人，就如“良伴歌”的歌词所唱的：基督里的良伴，人生旅途同行，靠着圣灵，合二为一享平安，我们是主里的良伴。



堂会在5月8日主日崇拜庆祝了母亲节与妇女会主日。为了感谢TA姐妹们,在这特别的崇拜中,妇女会安排了在英厦华印尼4音崇拜分发给每位姐妹一束漂亮的康乃馨花。牧师也为在座的姐妹们祷告献祝福,感谢上帝赐予我们亲爱的母亲和姐妹们!

在5月7日的妇女姐妹会也安排了特别母亲节聚会。姐妹们好难得有机会实体聚会,好珍惜可以在一起唱诗,学习,聊天。姐妹们的愉快团契包括了一场有趣的圣经故事戏剧比赛“人人是演员”,大家在欢乐的笑声下,都学了几个经典圣经故事。一个下午的庆祝活动结束时,姐妹们还收到精致礼品,好开心的一天。

妇女会将会恢复以往的实体聚会,在每个月首圣餐后的周六聚会。欢迎TA姐妹们参与我们的开心团契。



感谢妈妈和姐妹
CELEBRATING MOTHERS
AND SISTERS

无畏人生

我的生命花篮里装满了鲜艳美丽的花朵，我的心房弥漫着清新持久的花香。我现在住在慈怀医院里，清楚知道自己正面临死亡的到来，也清楚知道我生命的主宰对我去留的掌管，使我的心充满感恩，也平静安稳。

我手里紧握着一个小型的木制十字架，我信靠为爱我而背负十字架的主耶稣基督，就算此刻祂让我背负着面向死亡的十字架，我也要顺服接受。起初我会觉得沉重苦痛难当，怨言油然而生。患病的我经历不少疗程中所出现的折腾与磨难，双脚也乏力难行，身心的苦楚惟有向天父倾诉。整个信心旅程虽然步步艰辛，但因为我有此真实信仰，有恩主一路扶持，有家人陪伴同行，有教会牧者关怀，有主内弟兄姐妹代祷探访……一切都让我在风雨中走来并不孤单，原本害怕的心也因而变得刚强无畏。

现在我决定不再进行任何治疗，医生于是宣布我在世只有3个月的时间，此时我心反而有了出人意表的平安。我不再怨天尤人，深知生有时，离世有时；健康有时，衰弱有时。我正耐心等待主的恩召，一无挂虑。

感谢天父爱我至深，护我至今，让我拥有一个幸福的基督化家庭、与我风雨同舟的先生、两个乖巧懂事的女儿。看着她们成长、工作、出嫁、生育，我心中有无比的喜乐与满足。感谢天父让我和先生在我们健壮时有机会于社区参与关怀居民的事工；我也在妇女会事奉多年。生活中我还多次经历上帝对我的保护 - 熨衣服时、煮开水时、先生不小心接错电源时 - 我都靠主避过危险，也体验到有无形的手推开我免于在意外中受伤……如此数算主恩，我从主那里蒙受的恩福委实多而又多！

在患难中，上帝的话语给了我莫大的力量，其中我最喜爱的经文是《诗篇》第23篇：“耶和华是我的牧者，我必不至缺乏……我一生一世必有恩惠慈爱随着我。我且要住在耶和华的殿中，直到永远。”这是多么美好的应许啊！而我最喜爱的诗歌是《这一生最美的祝福》：“这一生最美的祝福，就是能认识主耶稣，这一生最美的祝福，就是能信靠主耶稣，走在高山深谷，祂会伴我同行，我知道这是最美的祝福。”我这一生因着主耶稣，只有祝福，源源不断的祝福……

我知足了，我满心感恩，我赞美主的圣名，我称颂祂的作为，我知道祂的旨意最美好！



许丽卿口述
刘淑莲笔录



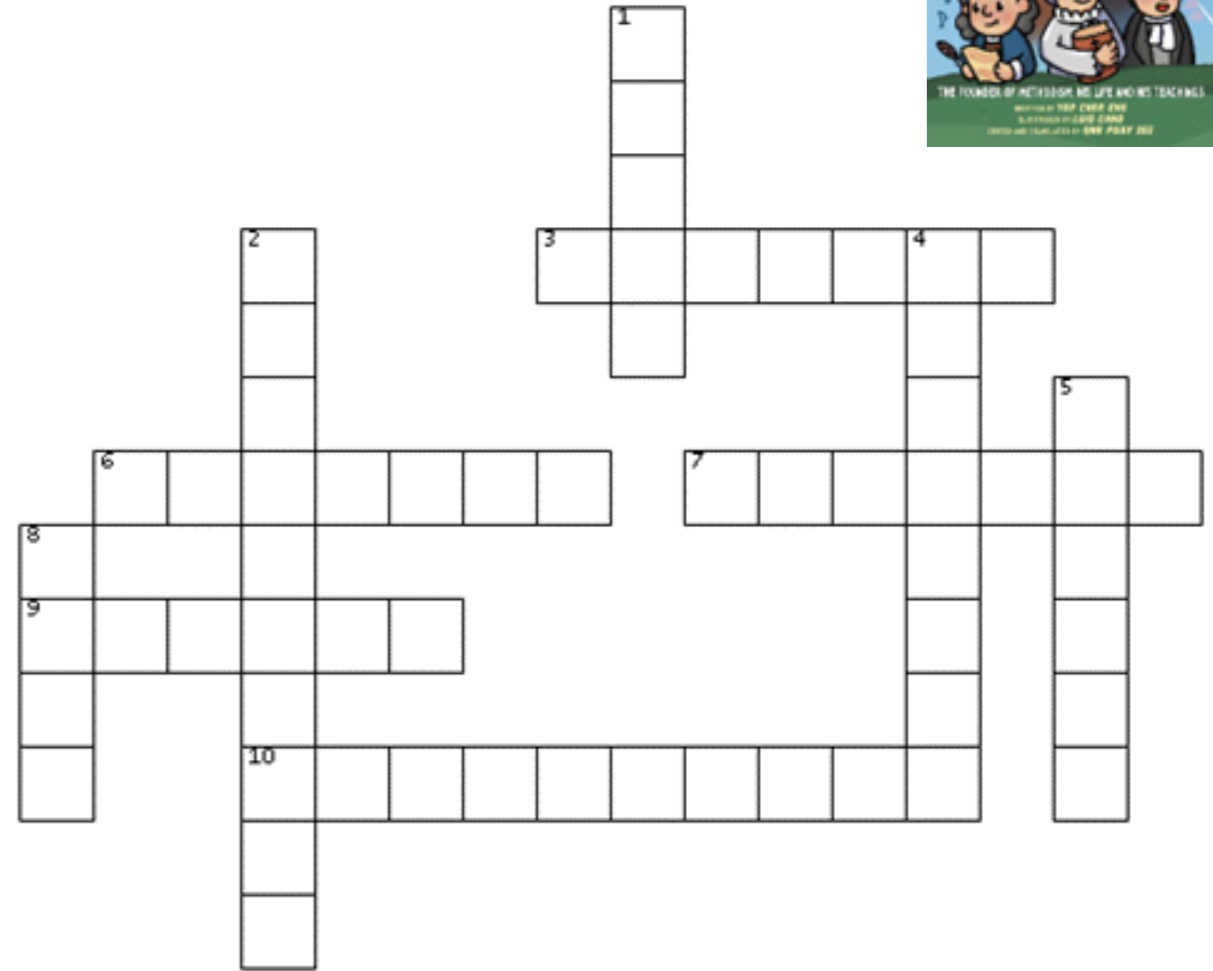
丽卿手握十字架摄于慈怀医院

上述见证口述于2022年3月21日
许丽卿于2022年4月9日安息主怀

许丽卿(图左坐着第二位)全家照

John Wesley Puzzle

Do you know we just celebrated Aldersgate Day in May? This is the day we remember the Founder of Methodism, John Wesley. How well do you know John Wesley? Challenge yourself with the crossword puzzle below. [Clues can be found in the "I Am John Wesley" comic book.]



ACROSS

3. When John Wesley was rescued from the fire, he was called a "brand ___ from fire."
6. Name for John Wesley's mother.
7. John Wesley's brother.
9. John and Charles studied at this University.
10. The place where John Wesley felt "strangely warmed".

DOWN

1. The Book that guides us in life.
2. John Wesley travelled around England and America to spread the Gospel as a ____.
4. Horse riding is a form of ____ for John Wesley.
5. When you recognise your wrongdoing and ask for forgiveness.
8. We can bless the ___ by giving them food or donations.

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