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TELOK AYER CHINESE METHODIST CHURCH

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水湾之声

Ripples from the Bay

Living Out Holy Love
in a Turbulent World

在动荡世界中
活出圣爱



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过去，我们经常使用“VUCA”（易变、不确定、复杂和模糊）这个术语来描述不可预测的世界。然而，即使是这个术语本身也无法摆脱它所描述的不确定性的命运，而被一个充满BANI（易碎、焦虑、非线性、难以理解）的动荡世界所取代。尽管我们还未摆脱“新冠病毒”的阴影，新的挑战接踵而来，包括聊天GPT等人工智能工具的崛起，以及以色列-哈马斯冲突的政治紧张局势。

在这期的《水湾之声》中，我们聚焦于“在动荡的世界中活出神圣的爱”。

在年末卫理公会华人年会中，直落亚华人卫理公会教堂（TA）收到了牧师任命的通知。我们不舍地告别蔡伟山牧师，他在过去的12年里领导了TA，标志着一段非凡的事工之旅的结束。用蔡牧师自己的话说，“上帝有祂的计划，让我经历有头有尾，有始有终的事奉旅程！。。每一个旅途的终点也是另一个旅程的起点。我知道接下来的旅程，不是单靠我过去的经验去面对明天，而是不断

In the not-too-distant past, we often used the term VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex, and Ambiguous) to describe the nature of the unpredictable world we are living in. However, even the term itself is not immune to the uncertainties it describes and is now giving way to a tumultuous world marked by BANI (Brittle, Anxious, Nonlinear, Incomprehensible). Despite our aspirations to break free from the grip of COVID's tyranny, we find ourselves confronted by new challenges, including the rise of AI tools such as ChatGPT and geopolitical tensions exemplified by the Israel-Hamas conflict.

In this edition of Ripples from the Bay, our focus is on “Living Out Holy Love in a Turbulent World.” As we navigate the uncertainties, Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church (TA) received the year-end announcement of pastor postings within the Chinese Annual Conference. We bid a fond farewell to Rev Chua Ooi Suah, who has led TA for the past 12 years, marking the conclusion of a remarkable ministry journey. In Rev Chua's own words, “God has His plans, allowing me to experience a ministry journey that has a clear beginning and end!” As he steps into retirement, he places his trust in God, acknowledging the One who controls the future, and commits to continuing the journey with the Lord.

地仰赖掌管明天的上帝，继续与主同行。

于此同时，我们也告别吴钧杰牧师，他的信仰之旅始于TA。回顾他TA中度过的时光时，吴牧师见证了主耶稣的坚定恩典，尤其是祂赐予我们基督社区内的关怀。当吴牧师在颂恩堂开启新篇章时，让我们祈祷上帝的引导和保护会跟随着他。在卫理公会大家庭中，我们的道路将交汇，并在追求圣洁和表达神圣爱的过程中相互鼓励。

在告别的同时，我们热烈欢迎陈书铭牧师和林恩信牧师。他们引人入胜的背景和经历将为我们TA教会的大家庭增添了色彩。陈书铭牧师在自我介绍中自称为“蒙恩的罪人”，反思以弗所书2:1-2，承认自己过去曾经与上帝背道而驰。林恩信牧师幽默地将他的家庭描述为中、韩、印尼文化的“rojak”混合体。若想更了解我们的新牧师，不妨阅读他们的自我介绍，也请在新的年里热诚地欢迎他们。

在这期的主题中，我们的兄弟林家成引导我们关注哥林多前书1:27，“但上帝拣选了世人看为愚昧的，要使智者羞愧；上帝拣选了世上软弱的，要使强者蒙羞”。吴兄弟见证了缅甸仰光基督徒尽管资源匮乏，却无私的关爱和收留街头孤儿。他提出了让人深思的问题：“我们属于一个看似富裕却一无所有的教会吗？”，“我们能为一个看似贫穷但却拥有一切的教会做些什么？”。这些问题挑战我们重新评估我们在基督教社区中的角色和贡献。

刘淑莲姐妹从耶利米书3:22a和6:16a中得到启示，敦促背道的儿女回归。她提醒我们所有的尊荣和权柄都属于主，耶和華向祂所拣选的子民“呼天唤地”（申命记30:19）。万军之耶和華是轻慢不得的，尊荣、权势、能力都是属于耶和華的，我们定要一心遵从祂，一生尊祂为大！

莫桂桃姐妹叙述了她刚经历肺癌的诊断和治疗的过程，做了一个有力的见证。她的

Another chapter unfolds as we say goodbye to Rev Jasper Ngoh, whose faith journey began at TA. Reflecting on his time amidst storms, uncertainties, and victories, Rev Ngoh witnesses the unwavering grace of our Lord Jesus, particularly in the care extended within our Christ community. As he embarks on a new chapter at Charis Methodist Church, our prayers accompany him, trusting in God’s guidance and protection. Within the larger Methodist family, we hold confidence that our paths will intersect, fostering mutual encouragement in the pursuit of holiness and the expression of holy love.

Amidst farewells, we extend a warm welcome to our new pastors, Rev Glenn Tan and Rev Irman Halim. Their intriguing backgrounds and experiences add diverse threads to the tapestry of our church family. Rev Glenn Tan, in a self-introduction titled “Sinner Saved by Grace,” reflects on Ephesians 2:1-2, acknowledging a past marked by back sliding. Rev Irman Halim humorously characterises his family as a “rojak” blend of Chinese, Korean, and Indonesian cultures. For those eager to learn more about our new pastors, delve into their self-introductions and, even better, join us in extending a heartfelt welcome as they embrace their roles in TA in the coming year.

Embracing the theme of this issue, our brother Lim Kah Seng directs our attention to 1 Corinthians 1:27, emphasizing God’s penchant for choosing the seemingly foolish and weak to confound the wise and strong. Drawing inspiration from the Christian acts of kindness in Yangon, Myanmar, despite scarce resources, he prompts soul-searching questions: “Why do we belong to a seemingly prosperous church that could have nothing?” and “What can we do for a seemingly impoverished church that has everything?” These questions challenge us to re-evaluate our roles and contributions within the broader Christian community.

Sister Law Siok Niu draws from Jeremiah 3:22a and 6:16a, urging us to return from faithlessness and seek the ancient paths. She reminds us that all honour and power belong to the Lord, emphasizing wholehearted obedience and magnification of His presence throughout our lives. In the recognition that our Lord orchestrates everything, we find solace and refuge beneath His protective wings.

生动叙述，说明了我们的上帝的忠实和可信赖，祂为她的康复创造了看似不可能的情况。耶稣是我们渡过风暴、战胜风暴的力量。一切荣耀归于主！

在2023年10月2日，我们忠诚的仆人，倪东山兄弟，离世与主同在。陈树霖教授，东山的妻舅，回忆了东山由于心脏病发作而突然离世的情景。东山兄弟做事认真谨慎，在教会的事工上，忠实而安静地侍奉主。他是对上帝忠心、良善的好管家的榜样。东山兄弟，安息吧，主耶稣对你说：“进来享受你主人的快乐！”

在世界的动荡中，我们如何实践神圣的爱呢？其中一个切实可行的行动就是成为基督的门徒。TA内许多人已经通过门徒课程迈出了他们的第一步。这期的《水湾之声》中包含了那些经历了门徒3的会员的反思。展望2024年，我们将会组织更多的课程。如果你感到心跳加速，并听到祂的声音催促行动，请考虑报名参加门徒1和基督同伴课程。在你阅读这期《水湾之声》时，门徒4已满额。

TA 家庭蒙受主恩，不仅有一座宏伟的教堂建筑，而是两座！我们对上帝在教堂修复之旅中的引领充满感激之情。在这一期的《水湾之声》中，我们将呈现TA产业管理委员会主席杜明泉兄弟提供的工程进展的最新消息。

随着圣诞季节的来临，让以赛亚书9:6提醒我们：“因为有一个婴孩为我们而生，有一个儿子赐给我们；政权必担在他的肩头上；他的名必称为‘奇妙的策士、全能的神、永恒的父、和平的君。’”

在这欢乐的季节中，愿主赐予直落亚华人卫理公会教堂的每一位会员平安与喜乐。

Sister Grace Mok shares a powerful testimony of navigating unexpected health challenges, specifically a diagnosis and treatment for lung cancer. Her account vividly illustrates the faithfulness and trustworthiness of our God, whose guiding hands orchestrated the seemingly impossible for her healing. On October 2, 2023, our faithful servant, the late brother Gay Tong Sun, departed to be with the Lord. Prof Tan Chew Lim, Tong Sun’s brother-in-law, recounts the sudden loss due to a heart attack. Brother Tong Sun leaves behind a legacy, serving as a silent role model for us all on faithfully and quietly serving our Lord.

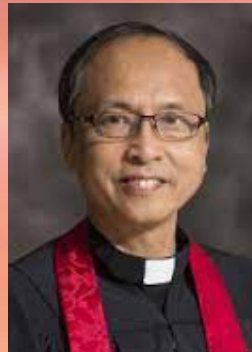
Amid the turbulence of the world, how do we live out holy love? One tangible action is found in becoming disciples of Christ. Many within our community have taken their initial steps through Disciple classes. This edition of Ripples features reflections from members who experienced Disciple III. Looking ahead to 2024, more classes will be organised. If you sense your heart quickening and hear His voice urging action, consider signing up for Disciple 1 and Companion in Christ. Disciple 4 is already fully subscribed by the time you read this issue of Ripples.

The TA family has the divine blessing of not one, but two magnificent church buildings. We are full of gratitude for God’s guidance during the church buildings’ restoration journey. In this edition of Ripples, we feature an update from Brother William Toh, the chairman of the TA Property Management Committee. Prepare to be captivated by vibrant images showcasing the work in progress!

As the Christmas season envelops us, let Isaiah 9:6 serve as a reminder: “For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.” May peace envelop every member of TA during this joyous season.

Rev Chua Ooi Suah
PASTOR-IN-CHARGE

蔡伟山牧师
(主理牧师)



继续 与主同行

Continuing the
Journey with
the Lord

感谢上帝，我在1985年被委派的第一间教会和退休前12年服事的教会都是直落亚逸礼拜堂。上帝有祂的计划，让我经历有头有尾，有始有终的事奉旅程！

回顾上帝对我一路的带领，有几方面的感想：

上帝的拣选是奥秘

我深深体会“怎能如此”这首歌所描述的，像我这样的罪人，也蒙主宝血救赎大恩。怎能如此，我主我神，竟为我死。信徒蒙恩得拯救是奥秘，被上帝拣选作祂的仆人，也是奥秘。

上帝家里具有领导才华，办事能力，爱心敬虔的会友不少，他们更适合作传道人，上帝呼召我如此平凡的人是奥秘。

上帝的恩典是足够有余

全职事奉这路是不容易走的，有时面对可怕的风浪，有时遭遇荆棘般的刺痛，有时感到苦杯难喝。但是十子架虽然沉重，总不会重过主的恩典。

上帝恩典除了祂亲自的陪伴同在，祂是我随时的帮助和依靠，只要我记得抬头仰望，低头祷告，祂的能力和智慧就不缺席。

上帝的供应是奇妙丰富

我日常所需的，包括住屋、三餐饮食、孩子读书等的需要都足够无缺。上帝的供应是奇妙丰富，不只是生活物质得供应，更在事奉旅途中有结伴同行的人，我相信是上帝赐下“同路人”。

回想38年来许多结伴的同路人，他们的爱心、信心、干心。。。所流露出来的美德成了我的学习榜样。

小结：我仍然在旅途中，有时体会满足，有时经历茫然。每一个旅途的终点也是另一个旅程的起点。我知道接下来的旅程，不是单靠我过去的经验去面对明天，而是不断地仰赖掌管明天的上帝，继续与主同行。阿门！

Thank God that the first church I was appointed to in 1985 and the church I served for the last 12 years before retirement are both Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church. God has His plans, allowing me to experience a ministry journey that has a clear beginning and end!

Reflecting on God's leading throughout my journey, I have several thoughts:

The Mystery of God's Choice

I deeply resonate with the song "How Can It Be?". As a sinner like me, saved by the precious blood of the Lord, how can it be that my Lord and my God died for me? The grace bestowed upon believers for salvation is a mystery, and being chosen by God to be His servant is also a mystery. In God's household, there are many talented leaders with administrative abilities and many other loving, devout members who may be more suitable as preachers. It is a mystery that God chose someone as ordinary as me.

God's Grace is Abundantly Sufficient

The path of full-time ministry is a treacherous one. At times, facing dreadful storms, encountering thorny pains, and tasting the bitter cup can be challenging, but though the cross is heavy, it will not outweigh the grace of the Lord. In addition to His companionship, God is my constant help and support. As long as I remember to lift my head in worship and bow my head in prayer, His power and wisdom are never absent.

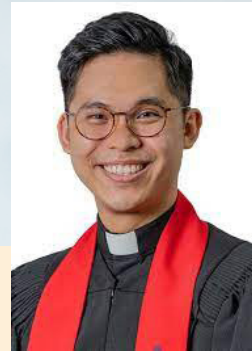
God's Provision is Marvelously Bountiful

All my daily needs, including housing, meals, and the educational needs of my children, are more than sufficient. God's provision is marvellously abundant, not only in material aspects but also in the companionship of fellow travellers on this journey. I believe these "companions on the road" are God's gift.

Looking back over the 38 years, many fellow travellers have exemplified virtues such as love, faith, and diligence, becoming my role models.

In conclusion, I am still on this journey, sometimes feeling satisfied, and other times uncertain. The end of each journey is also the beginning of another. I know that I can't face the next journey solely by relying on my past experiences, but to confront tomorrow by always relying on God, who controls the future, and continuing the journey with the Lord. Amen!

A Farewell Message from Rev Jasper Ngoh



Dear TA Family,

As I reflect on the journey we have shared over the past four years, I write these words with a deep sense of gratitude and humility. Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church holds a special place in my heart because this is where I took my first steps in faith, and the community here has played a pivotal role in nurturing my whole person. TACMC has not only been my spiritual home but also a place where I have consistently encountered God's grace in my life.

Being co-labourers with you during these four years, especially through the challenges of the pandemic, has been a privilege and an honour. Through the storms, uncertainties, and victories, I have witnessed the unwavering grace of our Lord Jesus, specifically in the way that we care for one another as a Christ community. The theme of our church, "Following Christ, Being Disciples", resonates deeply with me, and I wholeheartedly believe in our shared mission to be a community that relentlessly pursues holiness and faithfully lives out the perfect love of God in our words and actions.

Looking back, I hope and pray that, in some small way, I have contributed to the growth of holy love in our church. As I move on to a new appointment at Charis Methodist Church, I trust that TACMC, in the company of a new set of pastors, will continue to experience fresh facets of God's empowering grace that keeps us in step with the Holy Spirit and propels us in the love we have for one another.

Over the past four years, your warmth, encouragement, and prayers have sustained my family and me. Your love for us has been a constant light, guiding us through our shared journey of service and ministry. I want to say a big thank you to everyone in the TA Family.

As I head to Charis Methodist Church, I'll keep the important lessons and memories of our time together close to my heart. I'm excited to see how this wonderful community will keep growing, especially in how TACMC shines bright as a guiding light for the CBD and Telok Blangah community.

May we remain in connexion with one another!

With profound gratitude and warm regards,

Jasper

Rev Glenn Tan

Sinner saved by grace: A self-introduction

When I was first invited to write an article so that the brothers and sisters at Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church could get a sneak preview into the life and person of their new pastor, a plethora of taglines ran through my mind. I finally settled on "sinner saved by grace" as I was poignantly reminded by Ephesians 2:1-2 that a period of my life could aptly be described as "dead in transgressions and sins."

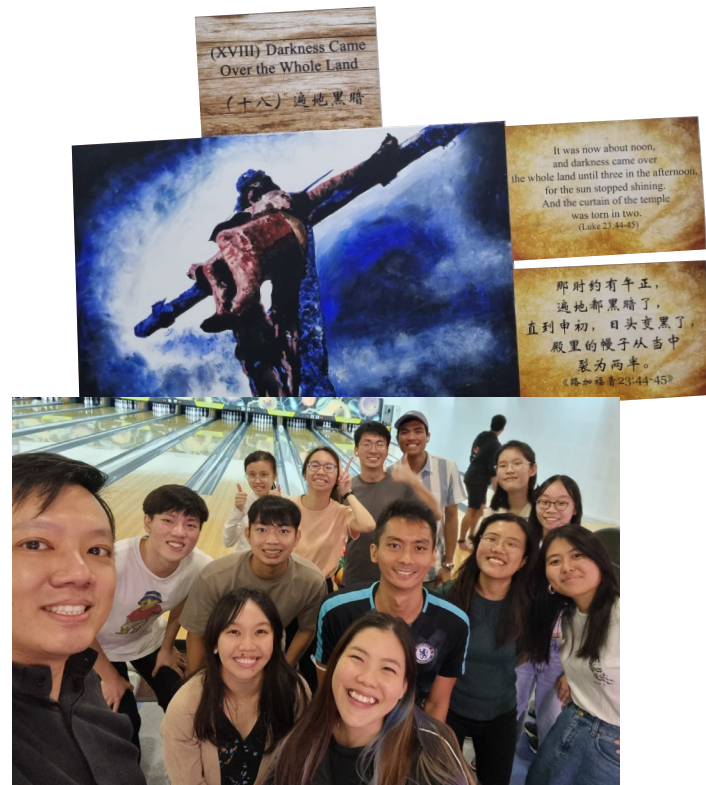
I started attending Grace Methodist Church in 1986 (when I was 10 years old) but decided that Christianity was boring, irrelevant and untrue several years later. After leaving the church in 1996, I wandered in the wilderness for 12 years.

God miraculously brought me back to church when my wife expressed an unexplainable curiosity toward Christi-

anity. This led to my own heart-warming, life-changing encounter with God whilst attending an Alpha course. Since returning to church in 2007, I am thankful for the many people who have journeyed with me; mentors who invested their invaluable lives to shape mine.

Today, the quote by John Wesley, "The Gospel of Christ knows no religion but social; no holiness but social holiness" underpins my understanding of pastoral ministry. I look forward to learning from the rich tradition of TACMC, walking with brothers and sisters in our journey to perfect love for God and neighbour, so that we will spur one another on towards love and good deeds.





I am married to Lina and have two children, Kristlyn (13 years old) and Kristan (10 years old). Outside of ministry, I occasionally indulge my interests in art and cooking and I leave you with some pictures for your viewing pleasure. Looking forward to meeting you in 2024!

Until then, may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and our God and Father, who has loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope by grace, comfort your hearts and establish you in every good word and work. Amen! (2 Thessalonians 2:16-17)

Rev Irman Halim

Be shepherds of God's flock... A self-introduction

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

It is a joy indeed to be given the opportunity to provide a short introduction for myself and my family, and I am honoured to be given the opportunity to serve the Lord at Telok Ayer Methodist Church from 2024 onwards.



I am Rev. Irman Halim (林恩信), a pastor with CAC for the past 11 years, having served for 3 years at Changi Methodist Church and 7 years with Hakka Methodist Church. 2023 has been my sabbatical year, where I had the opportunity to tour of and take a short course in Israel. The course has deepened my understanding and love for the Bible. As one of my lecturers liked to say, *"Many say that being in the Holy Land makes the Bible become more alive to them, but I think the right saying is that it makes Us become more alive to the Bible"*.

I am married to Yun, and we have two children – Chloe is 14 years old and Caleb is 12 years old. We are quite a "rojak" family in that I am ethnically Chinese (born in Indonesia and now a Singaporean), my wife is Korean, and my kids are "confused" to say the least, having to juggle between Chinese, Korean, and occasionally, Indonesian cultures. But if you ask them, they will proudly tell you that they are true-blue Singaporeans!

In many ways, the word "rojak" also aptly describes my life journey, in that it has been filled with many different life experiences and challenges. Like many of us in the church, not only am I a 3rd generation Christian, but both my parents are Methodist pastors in Indonesia. Some of us in the Church might have met them before – they are Rev. Fajar Lim and Madam Tjoa Gek Tjin, who served the Indonesian service at Telok Ayer Methodist Church for a few years.

The turning point in my life came when I found Christ in the midst of a very difficult time in our family's journey. I accepted Christ to be my Lord and Saviour when I was 14 years old and subsequently dedicated my life to serving the Lord at a youth camp when I was 16 years old. The Lord honoured my desire to serve Him full time (this was not without its challenges! But that is another story for another day) and I have been serving in the Methodist Church upon my graduation from TTC in 2005.



TACMC is a church steeped in rich tradition and culture, and I am excited to be a part of this wonderful and vibrant community. As it will be my first year serving at Telok Ayer, I would like to observe and learn from the church, to eventually understand and discern God's working in the church. I look forward to serving and co-labouring with the members, leaders, and fellow pastors of Telok Ayer Methodist Church.

Above all, as I begin my ministry with the church I am once again reminded of my calling as a pastor by the writing of the apostle Peter in 1 Peter 5:2 – *"Be shepherds of God's flock that is under your care, watching over them—not because you must, but because you are willing, as God wants you to be; not pursuing dishonest gain, but eager to serve"*.

Indeed, let us continue to serve the Lord and one another in love and humility, and as we celebrate Christmas, may we look upon Christ, who *"did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."* Amen.



Lim Kah Seng

Living out Holy Love in A Turbulent World

"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."

1 Corinthians 1:27

We are blessed in Singapore for having a wise and strong government. Our government policies have made our nation financially strong where home ownership is high and our median household income a month is over \$10,000 (based on Year 2022 data).

Many Singaporeans including Christians have amassed wealth and knowledge through our education system, job and business opportunities. Few have issues with daily needs like food, clean water, shelter, education and sanitation.

In comparison to much of the world, Singaporeans are indeed "wise" and "strong".

In March 2018, by God's grace, I visited Yangon, Myanmar with a non-Christian organisation to conduct a children's camp for about 350 children. This organisation primarily provides rice, basic amenities and education for the children as its vision is to help the children break out of the poverty cycle through education.

There were many orphans in Yangon. Natural disasters such as Cyclone Nargis in 2008, with a reported death rate of 138,000, aggravated the situation. Many of these orphans are homeless and left to fend for themselves on the streets.

In Yangon, I met Christians who do "foolish things" in life. These are people with no resources even to feed their own families and children and yet they provide care to orphans. They opened up their homes and took in orphans from the streets. They shared their homes and their food and gave their love and attention when they did not even have enough for themselves and their children.

They did "foolish things" that we Singaporeans wouldn't easily consider doing.

In the children's camp, I was able to attend their Christian worship session. The children's singing was the purest worship I have heard in a church setting.

Yet, it was a church with no air-conditioning and no chairs, and where the children were not nicely dressed. But it was a church with the voices of children singing and worshipping Jesus. It was a church which seemed to have nothing but yet had everything it needed.

Something in me changed after that trip. I had gone to Yangon thinking I was wise and strong. Yet I came away ashamed. I had not learnt to love "foolishly". I asked

myself, "Who has more faith? The man with all the daily bread he ever needs and yet holds tightly to his surpluses, or the man with almost nothing and yet still shares his home and resources with others in need?"

A question we may need to ask God is "Why do we belong to the church that seems to have everything and yet could have nothing?" Another question is "What do we do for the church that seems to have nothing but yet has everything?" If we profess to be followers of Christ, our church should have no "walls" and be all-inclusive, regardless of our financial status and resources.

In recent years, God also led me to World Vision Singapore, an organisation that reaches out to poor and needy children all across the globe. Child sponsorship has become an essential part of my life and truly I believe this is the thing God wills me to do.

I thank God for showing me these things in the world which have led me to change my view on money and to embark on child sponsorship with World Vision Singapore.

To live out Holy Love in a Turbulent World, we may need to do foolish things in life, where our actions are not based on worldly wisdom but on Godly love.





呼天唤地

你们这背道的儿女啊，回来吧。
我要医治你们背道的病。

(耶利米书3:22a)

耶和華如此說：你們當站在路上
察看，訪問古道，哪是善道，便
行在其間。這樣，你們心里必得
安息。

(耶利米书6:16a)

在圣经中读到耶和華向祂所拣选的子民“呼天唤地”（申命记30:19），我的内心感到非常震撼，祂这一“呼天唤地”所带出的冲击力极猛。想到尊荣至上的创造主面对背道的以色列人时，痛心疾首，痛彻心扉，无法言喻的痛致使祂禁不住向祂自己所创造的天地倾力呼唤——“为何如此？怎能如此？不该如此！”祂，祂是如斯的真实伟大、圣洁公义，而我们，我们是谁？我们只不过是卑微不堪的尘埃，在苍茫大地毫不起眼，但伟大真神却时刻把你我捧在祂的掌心上如珍珠般珍爱疼惜。

刘淑莲

从宇宙的浩瀚广袤来看，可知创造者的智慧无边无际无穷无限，而渺小愚昧的人类竟然试图与神抗衡——吃禁果、筑巴别塔、拜偶像等等不智行为——这一切都导致天地变色，神人不和；原本美丽静谧的伊甸园顿时紧张起来，“和睦”退避三舍，“安宁”不翼而飞，不甘寂寞的恶者居然把罪带进来捣乱。然而，庆幸的是大而可畏的上帝仍掌握主导权，祂的烈怒虽如炙热的火焰燃烧起来，但祂心中对人类的爱比怒火更炙热，祂的宽容、良善、恩慈比山高，比地厚。

不过，祂亦是圣洁公义正直的神，祂无法容忍祂的孩子在罪海中浮沉。“我要救，我定意要救…”可是在拯救以先，祂要惩治那些不听祂“呼天唤地”的见证之人，故此，以色列北国在公元前722年沦陷，犹大南国则于公元前586年灭亡。

耶利米书所阐述的主要是呼唤以色列子民悔罪，回转至善道，否则将遭到被强国所灭之祸。泪眼先知耶利米苦口婆心的劝诫并未打动领袖百姓刚愎自用的心，所以他们最终难逃被灭的厄运。由此可见，万军之耶和華是轻慢不得的，尊荣、权势、能力都是属于耶和華的，我们定要一心遵从祂，一生尊祂为大！

Grace Mok

God's Wings of Refuge: My Testimony

I want to give glory to Almighty God who took me through a series of events concerning my health, and to testify to the grace and mercy God has lavished on me. Looking back now, I can only conclude that God has His hand in every detail of this incredible journey, fully covering me in body, mind, soul and spirit.

On the 10th of August, I was told I had lung cancer, and that I should have the tumour removed as soon as possible. My doctor promptly got an appointment for me to see the lung surgeon in five days. However, the PET scan and MRI for staging could not be done within those five days in the public hospital because of the long waiting list. God sent help in the person of a family friend who is an Oncologist in private practice. With his assistance, I had the two scans done at a private centre soon after. Much to our relief, the results showed no spread to other parts of the body.

Our moods were somewhat dampened, however, when told by the lung surgeon that the surgery could be done only six weeks later. So we considered going private, with various recommendations and options from our Oncologist friend. Then I was told by the lung surgeon that he was earnestly working towards bringing the surgery forward. I was then assigned a case manager, who made arrangements to have a battery of pre-operative tests done within a week so that I would be ready for surgery at a moment's notice. On 23rd August, I received news that I would be operated on the next day, exactly two weeks from the date of diagnosis. It seemed impossible at first. Who could have done it but our awesome God?

Subsequently, the lung surgery was successful under the divine hand of God. My recovery was largely uneventful, apart from the pain, and other discomfort as-

sociated with this type of surgery. At the post-operative review, the histology reports again confirmed there was no spread to other parts.

So where was God in all this? Right beside me every step of the way. He surrounded me with all the good people to make sure nothing went amiss, including the primary doctor who was vigilant enough to investigate my complaint, setting in motion the whole process that resulted in the best outcome I could have asked for. Catching it early was key. *God orchestrated it.*

It would not be true to say I did not go through an emotional roller coaster. From anxiety, confusion, and despair, to hope and relief. They were all there. But through it all, I never doubted God's infinite goodness, everlasting faithfulness and unfailing love for me. On the days leading up to the surgery, God spoke to me His words of comfort, encouragement and reassurance through the Scriptures and spiritual songs. In the interest of time, I will quote just two. From Ps 91:4 He will cover you with His feathers, and under His wings you will find refuge; His faithfulness will be your shield and rampart. From Isaiah 46:4 I am He who will sustain you. I have made you and I will carry you; I will rescue you. And many more! Indeed, it was an endless supply of God's rich

blessings and consolation. My cup runneth over.

While waiting to go into the operating room, I was left alone, but I knew that Jesus was with me, driving out all fears. I had the peace of God, right there in my heart! Before putting me to sleep, the anaesthetist told me not to worry, and that I was in good hands. I remember thinking to myself, I am in God's hand, which is far better. The next thing I knew, I was woken up and was told that it was all done.

When I was first diagnosed, I did not ask God 'why me?'. I understood that because of sin, it would have been more reasonable to ask 'why not me?'. But God has a purpose in all this, and I will not let my sufferings go to waste. Every day, I walk in confident trust in God's indescribable love for me. He met all my needs where they were and will continue to do so in the years to come. May God hold me fast and help me lean into His strength, come what may.

I would like to formally thank our pastors, our brothers and sisters in Christ as well as other friends who prayed for me, and showed me care, concern and kind support. Your prayers have made a huge difference. I've come to truly appreciate and value the power of prayer in our community, and the church, both within and without TA. I needed that. But God gets the highest honour. He is Jehovah Rapha, the God who heals. Jesus is my strength through the storm and over the storm. All glory to Him who reigns forever and ever!

*Praise the Lord. Amen!
Thank you.*

怀念倪东山弟兄

陈树霖教授



今年十月一日的主日，倪东山弟兄站在TA2圣殿的讲台，如往常地主持厦语圣餐主日崇拜，他那稳重响亮的声音还留在我的脑海中。想不到，隔日十月二日，东山突然回天家，实在令许多人震惊不已。守丧期间，许多教会里的弟兄姐妹，才知道东山原来是我的妹婿。

十月二日上午九点左右，我妹妹淑瑞打电话告诉我说，东山上吐下泻，满身冒冷汗，她劝东山快点去看医生，但他说没事，不需要看医生。因此，妹妹问我可否快点过去她那里。我与婉英随即上路。到东山的家时，见到淑瑞协助东山从厕所出来，藉着可旋转的椅子慢慢移到沙发上斜躺着，双眼紧闭，但仍会回应。东山的女儿也已刚到不久，正打电话叫救护车，不久救护车随即送东山到国大医院紧急部门。急救中、医生告诉我们东山心脏病爆发，情况危急，血压很低，血管严重阻塞，但需要先提升血压，才能疏通血管，否则心脏可能会中途停止。然而，血压一直无法稳定，医生说东山体一些器官因没血液输送已开始衰竭。于是只好赶紧疏通血管，但结果东山的心脏停止跳动，医生们设法复苏心脏，第一次复苏后心脏开始跳

动，但不久又停止。第二次，无法再复苏心脏。医生说即使复苏，东山的心脏最多只能再跳动数小时。结果东山就在下午，如此安详地蒙主恩召。

东山突然离别，教会里好几个事工：执事会、厦语崇拜委员会、牧师职员与会友关系员会(PPRSC)、厦语诗班、厦语小组、财务委员会、策略委员会等，都顿时感到一个明显的空缺。东山的忠心服事直接地、或间接地联系到许多人的生命。因此，第一晚追思礼拜，整个守丧处拥挤到水泄不通，有人计算除了在座的会众，尚有约八十多位赴会者，只能在周边站着。有一位邻居过后告诉淑瑞说：当晚追思礼拜时、高楼处的居民都听到震撼洪亮的歌声。

从我个人的回忆中，东山是我们当年、一群活跃于主日学与青年团契的年青人当中，最年小的一位，他有如我们当中的一位小弟弟。他安安静静地跟随着我们，他从不争大，也不争吵。只是忠心耿耿的服事。在此附上一张当年高级主日学唱诗班男声部成员的合照。小小的东山就坐在前排的最左边。



前排（左至右）：倪东山、倪东熙、庄修先、林清菊、留青山、
林秀凤、陈树霖、梁耀洪
后排（左至右）：李军杨、胡开华、郑火龙、黄清河、陈鼎立、
杨长兴、方家辉、张恩典

东山的离世，对我妹妹淑瑞来说，当然是一件极其伤痛的事。他们的儿子春晖与女儿苾芬都先后在追思与火葬礼拜中，见证他们的爸爸对家人的照顾。东山是家中的烹饪高手，不但亲身下厨，也亲自到市场购买食料。因此，他对食品的挑选与价格都是了如指掌，许多男士们包括我对这事都是门外汉。

守丧期间，不少东山在港务局的前同事都来吊丧。其中一位是他的前上司，他赞扬东山是一位尽责的职员，做事认真谨慎。东山在教会的事工上，堪称是上帝又忠心又良善的好管家。他担任PPRSC的文书二十多年，谨慎保管这些年来的会议记录，任何对过去教会人事处理的询问，东山随时都能提供我们所需的资料。东山也时常于周日来到教会，协助财务的审查。许多年来东山也忠心地带领本堂厦语崇拜的事工，面对疫情以及会友老化的挑战，出席人数迄

今稳定，东山的忠诚付出是其中的一个因素。东山不愧是负责厦语崇拜林明忠牧师的得力助手。林牧师在第二晚的追思礼拜中，证道时哽咽一时，流下伤心的眼泪。

东山也关心亲友的灵魂得救。他先后带领他爸爸、大嫂与大姐信主。他也耐心地跟进并最终带领一位弟兄傅子杰先生信主。第二晚追思崇拜前，傅先生在女儿幼培姐妹(Faith)的陪同下，双手扶着四脚拐杖，蹒跚走到棺木旁，泪流满面，感慨万千，瞻仰东山遗容。一位为东山生前针灸的中医师，在吊丧时，为东山流泪。她告诉淑瑞说，这是她第一次为自己的病人流下眼泪。至于我，在东山的盖棺礼拜时，我悲从中来、情不自禁地在棺木旁嚎哭，向我亲爱的妹婿告别。东山，安息吧，主耶稣对你说：“进来享受你主人的快乐！”



Disciple III 2023: Transformative Journeys

In line with TACMC's theme of "Pursuing Holiness, Living out Holy Love," the TA English Service Discipleship and Nurture Committee held the course "Disciple III: Remember Who You Are" from February to October 2023. Over the 32 weeks, 13 participants met together every Tuesday from 7.30 pm to 10 pm and delved into the study of the relationship between memory and identity as observed in the Old Testament Prophets and the Letters of Paul. As a group, they explored the shared themes such as the calls to remember, to repent, of renewal, and the fostering of community bonds.



Below are some reflections shared by a few who had participated in the course.



Khoo Fun Ming:

Attending D3 class was almost like going through a tough course like Officer Cadet Training in SAF Training Institution... I reserved Tuesday nights for 32 weeks to attend the lessons and often had to beg off from business dinners when I travelled overseas. I found that the difference between reading the bible alone (where God often spoke to me personally) and studying the scriptures in a big group was that group

study was a better way of understanding His word. In a group, the discipline of studying the Bible daily became a habit and I would feel guilty if I skipped any reading. Most importantly, D3 challenged me to read the Bible systematically as we also consulted Bible commentaries during individual study to seek further explanations and insights. All praise to God as we ended our final lesson with dinner and Holy Communion!

★ *Gavin Chan:*

A key takeaway for me was that the prophets' messages often focused on calling the people back to God, and emphasised the importance of repentance, righteousness, justice, and faithfulness. The prophets warned against idolatry, social injustices, and disobedience to God's commands, and predicted serious consequences if the people refused to repent and change their ways. Yet, they also conveyed hope and consolation through the promised restoration, redemption, and the coming of a future Messiah. The prophets and their prophecies remain relevant to this day, providing moral guidance and offering precious lessons for us on faith, accountability, and the pursuit of a just society.

★ *Lia Melinda:*

I live in Indonesia and log into the Zoom session every week. I completed "Disciple I: Becoming Disciples through Bible Study" last year with my husband. This year, my daughter asked me why I was taking the D3 course. She said, "Mom, I saw you struggling with your research, reading the Bible endlessly, and saw your disappointment when you couldn't understand the task." Later, my son also asked me the same question. But here is why I persevered in the D3 journey....

During an assignment where we had to read about Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones (Ezekiel 37), representing people's spiritually dead condition, I realised that my own spiritual body had been akin to being in the ICU and could have died at any time. If I had not been brought to the spiritual hospital (i.e. church), and been cared for by the medical team (i.e. fellow believers) which was full of loving individuals who regularly provided me with spiritual support, I would have perished. My fellow D3 participants motivated me with their stories and inspired me with their unwavering belief in God. I can confidently say that the TA family has been like this spiritual hospital, and I am now spiritually

★ *Chong Soo Fern:*

The world today is full of chaos, violence and hatred, throwing Christians into confusion, hopelessness and discouragement. Often, our faith may be shaken too. Having gone through 32 weeks of D3, studying in depth God's messages delivered through OT prophets and Pauline letters, I gained new insights and a deeper understanding of how God shows us His faithfulness in fulfilling His covenant, spurring us to put on the armour of God individually and as a community of faith to fight against the evil in the world. Thus, it would be good if every church member, young and old, could join a Disciple class to equip themselves.

rejuvenated and fully alive by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. I see myself as clay, and God is my Potter. I have been born again to praise His name forever and He will use and empower me to spread His Gospel. Although it will be a long process, God will sanctify me through the Holy Spirit's guidance and enable me to put on new clothes of righteousness every day.

So, yes, I participated and continued in the D3 class because I want to be effective in sharing my faith with my family and friends, students, and neighbours. I want to pass down this faith to my children, daughter-in-law, and especially to my granddaughter and future generations. I, Lia Melinda, a wife, mother, mother-in-law, and a "nay-nay", was once a stray sheep but I can now confidently say that I am a citizen of Heaven. I hope that my story of faith will inspire you to also take up a Disciple class in 2024 and that it will lead you to a truly fulfilling life by drawing you closer to God. Through these classes, you can receive the spiritual nourishment necessary for regeneration, which will enable you to love as Jesus has loved us.

★ *Teresa Teh:*

Through this D3 course, I learnt that prophets are God's messengers, chosen by Him to remind others of His faithfulness and compassion despite their disobedience. For example, when Israel and its leaders repeatedly disobeyed God, the prophets reminded them to repent, return to God and stay faithful to their covenantal relationship with God. The prophets also brought hope to God's people, speaking of God's promise to send a Messiah who would save the world from sin. They remind us that God, with infinite compassion, will not be satisfied until the whole world is saved (Isaiah 45:22-23). From the stories of prophets, I learnt of the importance of offering God's compassionate and forgiving love to all people so that His salvation may reach the ends of the earth.



So, if you feel your heart beating just that little bit faster and you suddenly feel that maybe a Disciple course may be just what you need to take you through 2024, do sign up for Disciple I and Companion in Christ [Note: Disciple 4 registration is closed].

Progress Update of TA Restoration Work

William Toh
CHAIR,
PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

Praise the Lord who blesses the Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church with two buildings, and nurtures multi-generations of believers through TA.

The renovation of TA 2 is completed, pending some minor patching of defects. This article provides an update on the progress of the restoration of our TA church building, a project that stands as a testament to our commitment to preserving and enhancing the sacred space where we gather to worship our Lord.

As you may be aware, the restoration project officially commenced on February 1, 2023, with a contract period of twelve months. However, we faced challenges in the initial stages, particularly delays in obtaining permits from the authorities. Additionally, unforeseen structural issues on Levels 1 and 2 and concerns with the

terrazzo floor necessitate a more comprehensive approach. Consequently, the completion date for the Temporary Occupation Permit (TOP) has been extended to the end of April 2024.

In the face of these challenges, we turn to the scriptures for guidance and solace. Proverbs 16:9 reminds us that "The heart of man plans his way, but the Lord establishes his steps." We trust that despite the delays, the Lord is guiding this restoration project according to His divine plan, and we continue to place our faith in His perfect timing.

To address the additional requirements, we have diligently pursued avenues of support. With the assistance of our consultants and contractors, we submitted an urgent grant request to the National Heritage Board (NHB). We are pleased to

report that in October, we were informed the total revised fund granted is much higher than the previous grant. Praise the Lord for His abundant provision.

The restoration process involves various aspects, and we are pleased to share the progress of the ongoing works, various levels of the building are undergoing transformation:

Level 4 Demolition works and hacking of existing floors for the new lift core and waterproofing.

Level 3 Hacking of floors in toilets, nursing rooms, and the prayer room, along with the installation of electrical conduits, aircon ducts, and equipment.

Level 2 The removal of existing paint, laying of electrical conduits, and aircon ducts. Checking for hollowness of plaster and cracks.

Level 1 The demolition of existing toilets, removal of paint, and laying of electrical conduits. Checking for hollowness of plaster and cracks.

The external facade is undergoing the process of removing existing paint.

We are grateful for the hard work and dedication of our contractors, architects, and consultants who are diligently ensuring the quality and integrity of the restoration process. We seek your continual support to see through the restoration work.

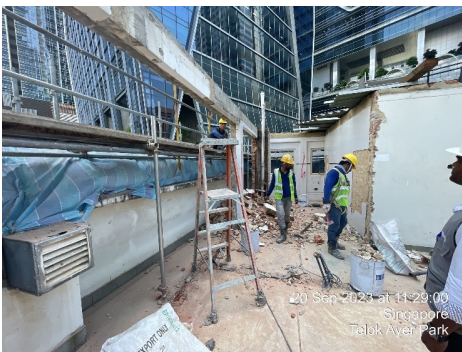
Haggai 1:4,7-8 (NIV) reminded us: ⁴“Is it a time for you yourselves to be living in your panelled houses, while this house remains a ruin?”... ⁷This is what the LORD Almighty says: “Give careful thought to your ways. ⁸Go up into the mountains and bring down timber and build my house, so that I may take pleasure in it and be honoured,” says the LORD.

We look forward to your continued prayers, support, and patience as we navigate through this restoration journey. Together, as a community of believers, we look forward to the day when we can once again gather in our renewed and spiritually enriched sanctuary.

[Note: please refer to the church bulletin for various means to contribute to the restoration of TA]

Level 4

Demolition of existing walls, beams and columns.



Level 3

Hacking of existing terrazzo floor finishes.



Laying of electrical conduits and aircon ducts and equipment works.



Level 2

Checking for hollowness of plaster and cracks.

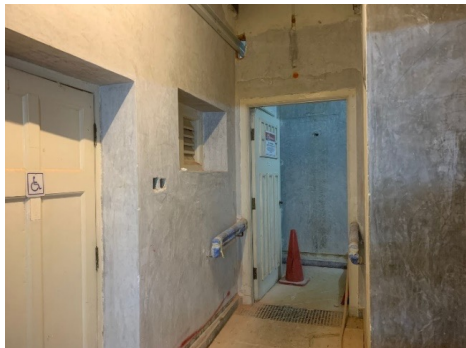


Laying of electrical conduits and Aircon ducts.



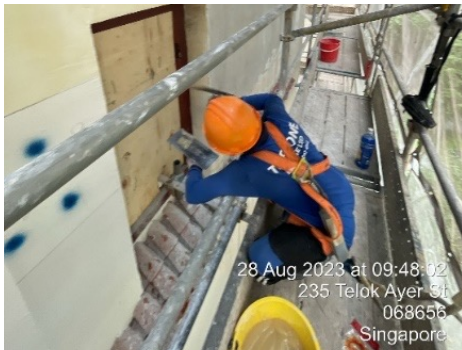
Level 1

Removing of existing paint and laying of electrical conduits.



External Façade

Removing of existing paint.



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