

THE LUTHERAN

信义之声



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FEATURE ARTICLE

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Caring for the Mental Wellbeing of our Youths

by Dr Samuel Wang



Receive New Strength

Isaiah 40: 27-31



Dear brothers and sisters, as we have now entered into 2022, let me wish all of you a blessed New Year. When I was pondering on what to share with you at this period of time, these verses from Isaiah 40:27-31 came to my mind. We have all come under the shadow of Covid-19 pandemic for almost two years, may be a lot of people will start asking when this will be over? Is God ignoring our cry? Does He not know what we have undergone? Is He not able to deliver us from these circumstances?

Before this pandemic, our life has

already been very stressful. Our young children and youth have to study very hard for their exams. Our young adults are striving to pursue excellence in their career and church involvement. The adults are struggling between their marriages, parenthood, financial responsibilities, serving in ministries and mid-life crises. The elderlies may be facing different health issues, widowhood, and insomnia. Now with the effect of Covid-19 and especially the new variant Omicron, the entire situation has worsened. I am sure that many people have become tired and weary.

MESSAGE FROM THE BISHOP

会督的讯息

从新得力

以赛亚书 40: 27-31

亲爱的兄弟姐妹们，我们现在已经进入到2022年了，在这里恭祝大家新年蒙恩。当我在思想要跟大家分享什么时，以赛亚书40:27-31的经文进入我的脑海里。我们处于冠状-19大流行的阴影之下已将近两年了，可能很多人开始在问什么时候会结束。上帝是否无视我们的呼求？祂不知道我们所经历的吗？难道他不能把我们从这些境况中拯救出来吗？

在这次的大流行之前，我们的生活已经有很大的压力。

我们年幼的孩子和青少年必须非常努力地学习以备考。我们的年轻人正在努力在他们的职业生涯和教会参与中追求最好的。成年人在婚姻、养育儿女、经济负担、圣工的服侍和中年危机之间挣扎。老年人可能面临不同的健康问题、寡居和失眠。现在，随着冠状-19的影响，尤其是现在有了新变种奥密戎，整个情况就变得更糟了。我相信很多人已经变得疲倦和疲倦。

这就是在以赛亚的时代以色

This was what the Israelites experienced during Isaiah's time when they were in the Babylonian Captivity. It is also what many of us feel in captivity as well during this period with all the Covid-19 restriction, we are tired and weary. But the Prophet Isaiah brought us a word of comfort; he said that the LORD our God is the eternal God. He is the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired, and he will not become weary. No one can find a limit to his understanding. Yes, our God is the Father Almighty which we confess together week after week in the Apostles' Creed, and he knows each one of us, he knows what we have experienced every day. He has no limit to his understanding to what we are

“But those who wait for the LORD will receive new strength. They will lift up their wings and soar like eagles. They will run and not become weary. They will walk and not become tired.”

Isaiah 40:31

facing in this life, because Christ has walked through this journey as a man. There's nothing he can't

understand. We thanked him for being able to understand our weaknesses, and also being able to help us. Isaiah told us, our God will not grow tired nor become weary, not only this, he is the one who gives strength to the weak, and he increases the strength of those who lack power. He is the one who will walk alongside you and lift you up or pick you up even when you are down in the valley of your life. As what Isaiah has pointed out to us in Isaiah 7:14, his name is Emmanuel, God is with us. Well, we were reminded when we celebrated Christmas last year.

Isaiah reminded us, that those who wait for the LORD will receive new strength. Waiting for God's guidance, it is not by our own strength, but as the Word of

列人被掳巴比伦时的经历。在一切冠状-19 的限制下，这也是我们许多人在这段期间感到受困的感觉，我们都觉得疲乏和困倦了。但是先知以赛亚给我们带来了安慰的话；他说永在的神耶和华，创造地极的主，并不疲乏，也不困倦。他的智慧无法测度。是的，我们的上帝是全能的天父，这是我们一周又一周地在使徒信经中所宣认的，他了解我们每个人，他理解我们每天所经历的一切。他的智慧对我们今生所面对的一切是无法测度的，因为基督曾经作为一个人走过了这段旅程。没有什么是他所不能理解的。

我们感谢他能够理解我们的软弱，并且还能够帮助我

们。以赛亚告诉我们，我们的神不会疲乏，也不会困倦，不仅如此，疲乏的，他

“但那等候耶和华的，必从新得力，他们必如鹰展翅上腾，他们奔跑却不困倦，行走却不疲乏。”

以赛亚书 40:31

赐能力，软弱的，他加力量。他是那与你并肩同行的人，即使你在人生的低谷，他也能激励你或扶你一把。正如以赛亚在7:14 中向我们指出的那样，他的名字是以马内利，上帝与我们同在。嗯，我们在去年庆祝圣诞节时就被提醒了。

以赛亚提醒我们，那等候耶和华的，必从新得力。等候神的引导，不是靠我们自己的力量，正如主对所罗巴伯所说的话：“不是倚靠势力，不是倚靠才能，乃是倚靠我

the Lord to Zerubbabel says: 'Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit.' Let the Holy Spirit lead and grant us new strength to face the future uncertainty with faith and prayer.

As LCS moves forward, we wait and pray for God's wisdom and guidance in order to receive new strength to continue the vision He gave us 25 years ago: "Building a House that bears the name of the Lord". There are seven Es which we want to focus on in the coming three to five years:

1. Embrace the Vision of LCS in the congregations;

2. Encourage, motivate and revitalize our pastors to serve in their ministry;

3. Enrich our councilmen to work efficiently and effectively with the pastors;

4. Enlist and encourage more young people to discern God's calling into the pastoral ministry;

5. Engage congregants to foster our Lutheran identity;

6. Establish a new congregation through migrating members from different congregations to a God led location;

7. Enhance congregations' evangelism ministry and deepen our collaboration with our mission partners.

May God bless us as we journey together through this New Year, 2022, while we wait for Him and be strengthened by receiving new strength by the help of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

的灵方能成事。”我们要凭着信心和祷告，让圣灵带领并赐给我们新的力量去面对不确定的未来。随着新加坡信义会(LCS)的向前推展，我们等候并祈求有上帝的智慧和引导，以便从新得力，继续他在25年前赐给我们的异象：建造一个荣耀主名的教会。在接下来的3-5年里，我们希望关注七个E：

1. Embrace - 众堂会都能拥护 LCS 的愿景；

2. Encourage - 鼓励、激励和重振我们的教牧在他们事工上的服侍；

3. Enrich - 增进我们的执事能有力和高效的与教牧共同努力；

4. Enlist - 招募并鼓励更多的年轻人辨明神对他们牧职的呼召；

5. Engage - 啮合会众以培养对我们信义宗身份的认同；

6. Establish - 透过将不同堂会的会友转移到神所带领的地方来设立新的堂点；

7. Enhance - 增强堂会的布道事工并深化与宣教伙伴的合作。

愿上帝赐福我们一起渡过这个2022年新的一年，同时我

们等候他并在圣灵的帮助下从新获得力量而变得坚强。

阿门。



新加坡基督教信义会
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE

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Email: lutheran@lutheran.org.sg

5 November 2021

To: All LCS Congregations

c.c. LCS ExCo; LCS Co-Workers

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Re: LCS Position on Human Sexuality

Grace to you and peace from God our Heavenly Father!

Human sexuality is an issue that affects every single human being. In his divine love and will, God has chosen to create us as male and female. In essence, being male and female is by the divine design of our Creator; this fact and the Word of God must guide our view of God's intentions of how our God-given sexuality is to be understood and expressed in the fabric of human life and relationships.

Recently, you may have come across in the news reports about the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) installing a transgender as a bishop in one of their synods in USA, and also ordaining and installing other homosexuals as pastors and bishops in the past.

The practice of homosexuality/transgenderism is clearly incompatible with the teachings of the Christian faith. Therefore, we do not condone homosexual/transgender practice and we consider homosexual lifestyle/transgenderism as sinful and unacceptable. However, this does not mean that we reject or despise homosexuals/transgenders. We acknowledge that every person is loved by God and we all live under the grace of God. We pray for their repentance.

The LCS does acknowledge with deep gratitude the ELCA for its pioneering work in the past which contributed immensely to the establishment of the LCS, and many years of generous, loving and fruitful partnership. Still, on the issue of human sexuality our positions clearly differ. Let us pray and intercede for ELCA.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Yours faithfully,

Rt. Rev. Lu Guan Hoe
Bishop
Lutheran Church in Singapore



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敬爱的新加坡信义会众弟兄姐妹

事关：新加坡信义会 (LCS) 对人类性取向的立场

愿恩惠与平安从我们的天父上帝归与你们！

人类的性取向是一个影响到每个人的问题。上帝在他神圣的爱和旨意中，选择将我们创造为男性和女性。实际上，成为男人和女人是我们造物主的神圣设计；这个事实与上帝的话语必须按上帝的心意来引导我们的视角，该怎样在人类的生活和关系的相互关联中来了解和表达上帝所赋予我们的性欲的心意。

近日，你们可能在新闻报道中看到美国福音信义会 (ELCA) 在其美国的一个教会会议中任命一名跨性别者担任会督，并在过去曾按立和任命其他同性恋者为牧师和会督。

同性恋/跨性别主义的做法显然与基督教信仰的教义格格不入。因此，我们不容忍同性恋/跨性别的行为，并且我们认为同性恋生活方式/跨性别主义是有罪和不可被接受的。然而，这并不意味着我们拒绝或鄙视同性恋者/变性者。我们承认每个人都是上帝所爱的，而且我们都活在上帝的恩典之下。我们要为他们的悔改祷告。

新加坡信义会非常感谢美国福音信义会在过去开拓创建新加坡信义会时所做的巨大贡献，以及多年来慷慨、充满爱心和富有成效的伙伴关系。尽管如此，在人类性取向问题上，我们的立场显然不同。让我们为美国福音信义会祈求和代祷。

感谢你们的关注。

主仆，

卢元和会督

新加坡基督教信义会

2021年11月5日

副本：新加坡信义会执行委员会委员

新加坡信义会教牧同工



新加坡基督教信义会
LUTHERAN CHURCH IN SINGAPORE

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17 November 2021

To: All LCS Congregations
c.c. LCS ExCo; LCS Co-Workers

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Re: Advisory on endemic Covid-19 vaccination and safety measures

Grace to you and peace from God our Heavenly Father!

I am writing regarding our social and moral responsibility to vaccinate and taking measures to protect the community.

Last year 2020 we have to suspend church services and Holy Communion because of the Covid-19 pandemic that has claimed many lives worldwide and turned the world upside down. We give thanks to God for the availability of various vaccines in Singapore to help prevent or reduce the severity of this virus infections amongst us. We are aware some LCS members have read opinions that express doubts or even doomsday warnings against the COVID-19 vaccinations that are currently available. Some are concerned about any negative side-effects which may emerge in the longer term. On the other hand, we must weigh such concerns against the endorsement and approval of these vaccines given by our Ministry of Health who have the medical expertise and knowledge on such matters.

The Lutheran Church in Singapore encourages all the members and their families to get vaccinated when they are offered the opportunity. However, after careful consideration of the matter and taking into account your personal health conditions, should you discern that, for medical reasons you are unable to get vaccinated, then we urge you to do all you can to take the necessary safety measures as part of our moral responsibilities to avoid ourselves being infected or transmitting the virus to others, especially those who cannot be vaccinated for medical or other reasons, and those who are the most vulnerable among us.

We love God by loving our neighbours. Let us encourage each other to play our part in protecting ourselves and others. Let us be good citizens of Singapore by wearing masks, sanitising our hands, taking safe distancing and other safety measures to protect our community as we learn to live with this endemic virus. Let us also continue to lift up our country and its leadership to God in prayer for His guidance

Thank you for your kind co-operation for the sake of our neighbours.

Yours faithfully,

Rt. Rev. Lu Guan Hoe
Bishop, Lutheran Church in Singapore



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致：新加坡信义会 (LCS) 众弟兄姐妹

主内亲爱的兄弟姐妹，

事关：地方性冠病疫苗接种和安全措施通告

愿恩惠与平安从我们的天父上帝归与你们！

我谨此是要写有关我们在接种疫苗和采取防疫措施保护社区的社会和道德责任。

由于去年 2020 年，冠病疫情 (Covid-19) 大流行已经夺去了全世界许多人的生命，并使世界天翻地覆，因此我们不得不暂停教会的崇拜和圣餐。我们感谢上帝在新加坡有提供各种疫苗，以帮助预防或减轻这种病毒在我们中间感染的严重程度。我们知道一些 LCS 会友读到一些对当前所使用的 COVID-19 疫苗表示质疑甚至是世界末日警告的观点。有些人担心从长期来看，可能会出现某些负面副作用。但是，我们必须把这些担忧与我国卫生部在这些疫苗问题上所给予具有医学专业和知识的认可和批准来进行权衡。

新加坡信义会鼓励所有会友及其家人在有机会时都接种疫苗。不过，在仔细考量此事并考虑到你们的个人健康状况后，如果发现由于医疗原因你们无法接种疫苗，那么我们敦促你们能尽上我们的道德责任，尽一切努力采取必要的安全措施以避免自己被感染或将病毒传播给他人，尤其是那些因疾病或其他原因无法接种疫苗的人，以及我们当中最脆弱的人。

我们通过爱我们的邻舍来爱上帝。让我们彼此鼓励，在保护自己和他人方面发挥我们的作用。当我们学习与这地方性病毒共存时，身为新加坡的好公民，让我们戴上口罩、勤洗手、保持安全距离和采取其他安全措施来保护我们的社区。让我们也继续在上帝面前为我们的国家和其领袖祷告以寻求他的引领。

谢谢你们为了我们邻舍的缘故所给予的合作。

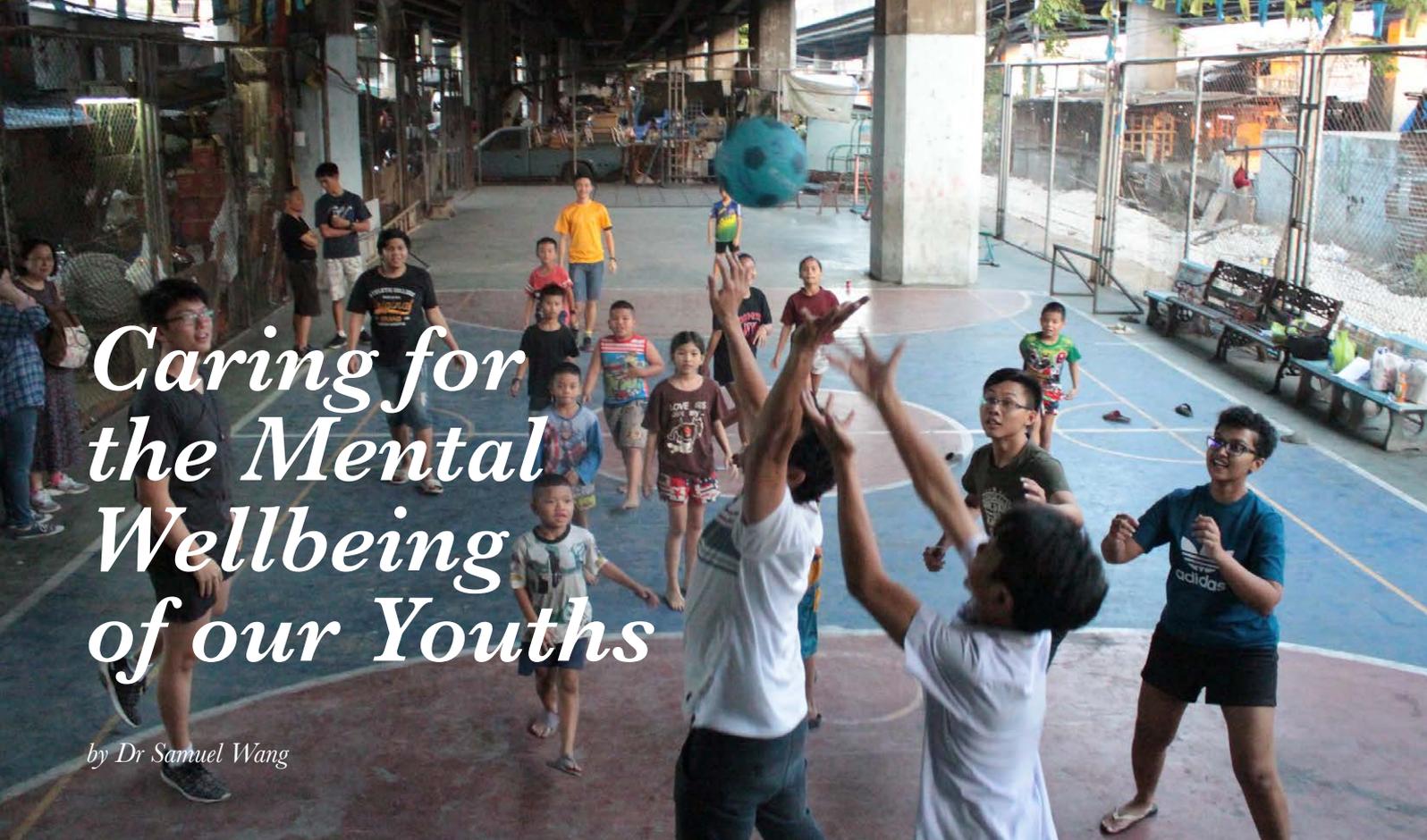
主仆，

卢元和会督

新加坡信义会

2021 年 11 月 17 日

副本：LCS 执行委员会；LCS 教牧同工



Caring for the Mental Wellbeing of our Youths

by Dr Samuel Wang

Rev Richard Chiu and Rev Sarah Ang are the pastoral leaders of the LCS Youth Sub-Committee, a group within the LCS Education Standing Committee. In 2021, there were quarterly training sessions for the youth leaders. One of the sessions conducted for youth leaders was on 4th September 2021 on mental health. There were 30 youths who turned up on Zoom. The two trainers, Geok En-Ting (**ET**) and Rachel Yew (**RY**) as well as a participant, Rebecca Rajakanthan (**RR**) were interviewed:

What was the event and purpose of the talk and who approached both of you?

ET & RY: The name of the talk was “LCS Youth Leaders’ Mental Health Talk: Caring for the Mental Wellbeing of our Youth” (a name Rachel and I came up with ourselves). The purpose was to share more of our knowledge

and expertise of mental health in the youth population with youth leaders, to support them in being able to identify those who need support and know how to approach such conversations and where to redirect them to. Ps Chiu approached us to conduct the talk after we had conducted a similar talk but geared at our youths in our church in 2019 and connected us with then Preacher Sarah.

What came to mind and how did you feel about the invite to the event and why did you agree to do it?

ET: I felt a little nervous as I wasn’t familiar with the other youth leaders in LCS and their backgrounds, but also excited to share more with them as I believe this is a very important topic that needs to be addressed more and brought into the open. I believe strongly that I’ve been placed as a psychologist in the community

to also share my specialised knowledge with those around me, to raise awareness and reduce stigma.

RY: I felt nervous about it as I was not sure how the response would be, and I generally feel very anxious when presenting. At the same time, I felt that this was an important topic, and it was very timely to have this talk (given the news about teenage suicide, RVHS case). I also felt supported by En-Ting who has so much knowledge, experience, and passion in this that it encouraged me to do my best.

RR: I thought it was a great idea! Growing up, mental wellness was

Rebecca (far right in blue T-shirt) playing captain’s ball with the kids in the slums in Bangkok

rarely ever a topic you would see someone hosting a talk about. People didn't understand it and didn't know how to have discussions about it, despite it being so central to how we function and relate to each other. If we educate ourselves and others about it, we could journey alongside so many that are hurting and alone. That's one of the reasons why I decided to study Psychology in university. It will always be important and interesting to me. So of course, I had to go for the event!

As Lutherans, we have a theology that puts secular work on the same level as spiritual work in God's eyes (*coram deo*) and that is the theology of vocation. Can you describe how you come to appreciate your work is a calling from God?

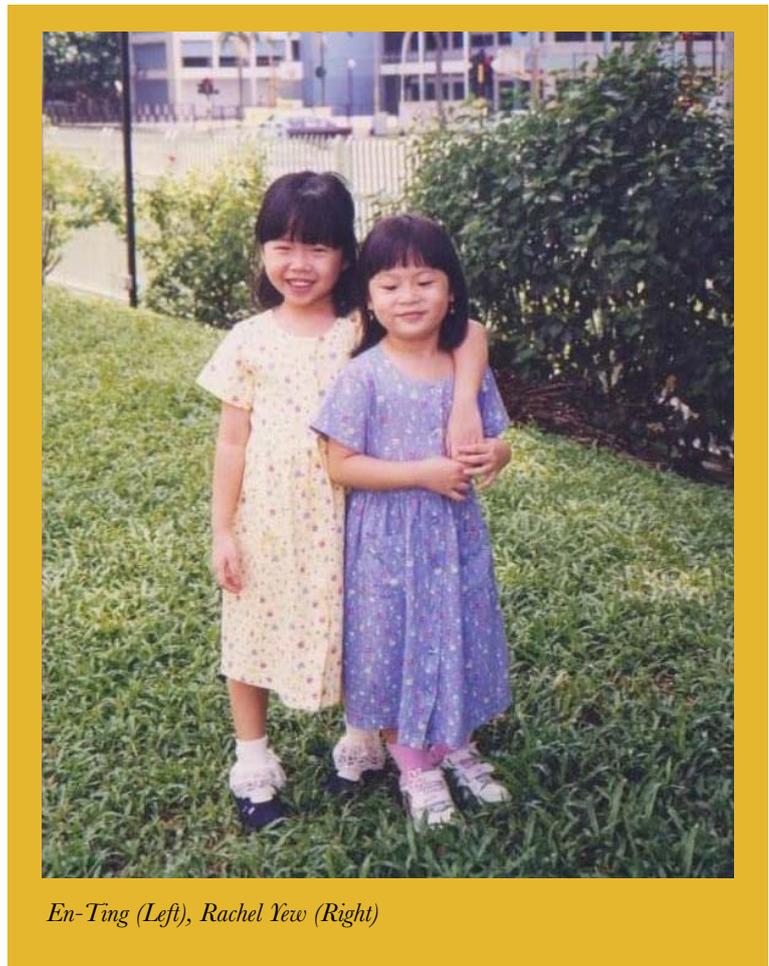
ET: I'm not sure if I'm answering your question, but I first truly learnt and understood the concept of vocation when studying the book *God at Work* by Gene Edward Veith Jr. with Ps Chiu and my CG (which both Rachel and I are in). Through this book, I learnt that we are placed in every situation and setting to be a blessing and to show God's love to others, and this doesn't have to happen just in our obvious career callings.

RY: I think I have been very blessed when it comes to my work - in a sense that I have been very blessed to have successful job interviews in my current and previous jobs. Moreover, both my current and ex-colleagues are very encouraging and supportive. As I have always wanted to work in the social service sector, perhaps this was one of the many ways God has called me to this vocation.

Similarly, with En-Ting, it was during the book study that I have come to realise and truly appreciate this.

What is your calling that you spent a lot of time on (paid job likely) and other callings? Describe what you do for the calling that you spent most of

Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), depression, the various anxiety disorders, and Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD), to name a few. I also provide psychological therapy for individuals and groups with the above disorders, and conduct talks for school counsellors, parents and other stakeholders to assist them



En-Ting (Left), Rachel Yew (Right)

your waking hours on?

ET: My main calling is as a psychologist in a community team. I work with schools in the East (meaning school counsellors), children, teenagers, and their parents in assessing for and treating mental health issues. To provide more detail, I mainly assess students in schools for the presence of a range of mental health issues and developmental disorders such as Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD),

in learning more about different conditions and how to help. Other callings include that of being a daughter, wife, granddaughter, youth leader in church, etc.

RY: At home, I am a daughter and an older sister. At work, I am a caseworker in a children's home. My main responsibilities can be divided to two parts. Firstly, is managing the day-to-day activities and routines in a girls' youth dormitory, such as ensuring they are doing okay in school and

at home, they comply with the structure and routines of the dormitory, and having counselling sessions with any issues they are facing. Secondly is case management where I work with their families, MSF, school teachers and other stakeholders in the girls' life to ensure timely reunification back to their natural families or work towards independent living.

Describe how you come to become the person you are and answer this call to serve

develop a sense of self and your own identity. Because of this, I have great passion to support those, particularly teenagers, who go through such difficult times, and to show them the love that God has shown me. My understanding of vocation has also helped me to see my role not just as a psychologist in my 8.30-5.30 job but also as a psychologist in the larger community, including in the church setting. I always make it known to my youths and others in the church that I'm a psychologist and they can talk to me if they have questions, have

and peers can come easily and comfortably to just talk about such things. Even though I am still so far from this, I am very thankful that God has placed many work opportunities and the church community to help me develop skills to become the person I wish to be.

What is most concerning about mental illness and youth and or young adults?

ET: What concerns me is the still-low level of public knowledge about mental health issues and the



Rachel Yew's workplace

God in the job that you are doing?

ET: I have had many friends and people around me who have struggled with mental health issues, and as most people, I too know what it's like to feel sad and anxious, and to struggle with strong emotions. Having been a teenager before, I also know how difficult it is to navigate the complexities of the teenage years, as you push boundaries and try to

family members or friends who are struggling, or are struggling themselves.

RY: I have liked interacting with children and youth and personally have gone through some difficulties during my teenage years alone. I know how it felt like to be alone and wanting someone to talk to, yet not being able to find that someone due to various reasons. As such, I aspire to be that someone who other youths

significant stigma surrounding such difficulties. While it may sound cliché, I really do believe that raising awareness is very important and that, while some strides have been taken in the right direction, that much more can be done to help everyone understand more. The stigma that society has for those with mental health issues and the judgement that people fear they may face; is a real and significant barrier to people being willing and able to



En-Ting's family

share about their struggles and receive the help and support that they need.

RY: Like En-Ting's answer, I also feel that it is the low level of public knowledge and the barriers that prevent people from seeking help are what is most concerning. Through my interactions in both work and personal lives, many still associate seeing a psychologist/psychiatrist as being someone who is "crazy" and that they do not need any help.

RR: The stigma that having poor mental health, or a mental illness, makes you less of a person. Too many young adults suffer in silence due to this damaging misconception, especially in workplaces or environments that thrive on 'hustle culture', and unfortunately it tends to cause issues (both physical and mental) that take a long time to recover

from. Every one of us, whether we are coping well mentally or not, are wonderfully made children of the magnificent creator. Nothing can take away from that! Not mental nor physical illness. Nothing.

What can young people do about it?

ET: I think something that's very important is being able to listen. Often, we tend to judge and form opinions without listening to what individuals have to say about their own experiences of these difficulties. If we could slow down, listen and be open to learning, we'd all be able to learn to understand and make space for each other more. This is something that everyone can do, not just young people.

RY: I think what all of us can do besides listening without judging,

is also the way we talk to them. We can all start to do this by showing concern, avoiding stigmatising language and invalidating their experiences, and encouraging them to make their own decisions or as a start doing it together.

RR: Learn to prioritize rest. We tend not to rest until we have holidays or until we are dead tired. But rest should be a discipline and a habit to sustain us in the long run, and to prevent burnout. Even just a daily pocket of time that is reserved for reflection/writing/reading/looking at the moon, can make a difference to your mind. Practise holding space for each other. Having access to a safe space to share and be listened to is a privilege that many youths don't have. If we learn to create that space and practise listening (while not giving uncool unsolicited advice), we can help someone in

their journey to recovery. Even just doing it to help make a bad day better is an act of love that can never be underestimated.

What can the church do about it?

ET: As above, I think it's very important to be able to listen to one another. Furthermore, community support in the church is really important. Being able to communicate with one another without judgement, to connect the younger and older generations through honest and open conversations and for both parties to be willing to learn and grow through interactions with one another would be helpful to cultivate a supportive environment where young people can feel safe and comfortable to be themselves and to share about their experiences.

RY: I also think that the church can be a support network to those

who might be alone or not quite visible to other community support. By doing the above, the church can become a bridge to also connect those in need to the appropriate agencies for better help and support them in this journey.

RR: Provide resources and education just like this! An interesting topic to explore would be people in the bible who struggled with mental health too. Elijah spoke of ending his life, and many of David's Psalms were about sadness. Yet God's presence was with both in their darkness.

Adults or mental health professionals could also serve as mentors for young people who are journeying with others or are facing difficult issues themselves. In this way, the church could be a safe place for them to return to and find refuge in.

Give me some biodata.

ET: I completed an undergraduate degree in Clinical Psychology, and completed my Masters in Clinical Psychology 1.5 years ago. I'm now working as a psychologist in a community team. I'm married with a wonderful husband and have been part of the congregation at YCCL since I was a toddler.

RY: I completed an undergraduate degree in Psychology and now working as a case worker in a children's home. Like En-Ting, I grew up in YCCL and friends with her ever since then.

RR: I'm Becky, a ministry assistant working in Bedok Lutheran Church, and I have been serving as a youth leader for the past decade. I've been blessed by many youths who have chosen to share their journeys with me, and who have been a great listening ear for me as well.

If you are a youth leader, please remember to connect with LCS Youth Sub-Committee, whose pastoral leader is now Rev Sarah Ang (Pastor at Queenstown Lutheran Church) and work together for the training of youth leaders in LCS.

Faith Makes Every Day's Work Spiritually Meaningful

by Dr Samuel Wang

“Nearly a quarter of S'pore workers intend to quit their jobs in first half of 2022: Survey”

– Today, Dec 20, 2021.

Are you the one in four Singaporeans that may likely quit your job in 2022? Do we find that with increased stress levels, heavier workload and feeling isolated, we may decide to quit our jobs come 2022? A Lutheran teaching here may help us re-look at our jobs

LUTHERAN TEACHING

信义会教导

信心使日常的工作满有属灵意义

王琦恩博士

“新加坡有近四分之一的职场人士希望在2022年的上半年离职：调查”

《今日》，
2021年12月20日

每四个新加坡人中就有一人期望在2022年离职，而你，是其中一员吗？你是否在压力增长、重担缠身、却又孤立无援时，觉得2022年就是下定决心离职时候？或许，这份信义会的教导能够帮助我们重新看待我们的工作。

and about doing good.

Even among Lutherans, we may still have this basic misunderstanding concerning doing good – faith is important for salvation, but when it comes to doing good, we simply forget about our faith but lean on our own efforts and not trust God in all our work, nor see non-church related work as anything spiritually meaningful.

The Lutheran Confessions agree when it comes to salvation, that God justifies by faith (AC IV). However, the Confessions also teach that when faith is not the motivation for doing good, then before God, that work is sin. This is because truly good work comes from a good person, “*For a person*

must be acceptable to God beforehand (and that alone because of Christ), before that person’s works are at all pleasing to him.” (FC,SD IV:8)

Faith is also God’s work that changes us, transforming us to become a new people. “*...it brings with it the Holy Spirit. O, it is a living, busy, active, mighty thing, this faith. It is impossible for it not to be doing good works incessantly*” (FC,SD IV:10).

You see, good works done under the flesh, or out of selfish ambition, are all signs of un-faithfulness in God, and cannot be anything good in the eyes of God. Hence, everything that is not from faith is sin (Romans 14:23; Heb 11:6).

An everyday example suffices.

Suppose you are a father, and you tell your teenager to finish his homework before he goes out to play basketball with his friend. But then the teenager gets angry and says he doesn’t want to. You tell him firmly, “If you don’t finish your homework, you don’t go out to play.” He throws his bag down on the floor and storms out of the room. Later his father sees him doing his homework in his room, rushing through as quickly as he can. But he is not doing this out of faith in his father’s loving intentions. Instead, he “obeyed” his father so that he can go out and play with his friend.

The Lutheran teaching here is that faith is so vital for justification when it comes to salvation, but it is equally vital when it comes to

即便身为信义会一员，我们可能依然对好行为有着基本的误解——信心对于救恩来讲固然重要，但每当论及好行为时，我们却忘记了我们的信心，转而单单倚靠自己的努力，我们无法在所承担的一切工作上信靠上帝，也无法在任何教会事工之外的职责中找到任何属灵意义。

从救恩的角度看，协同书认同上帝以信称义 (AC IV)。然而，协同书也教导我们：行善的动力若非出于信心，那么这些行为便在上帝的眼中成了罪。因为实实在在地，善行出于善人：“某人的行为欲蒙上帝喜悦，他必须独因基督之故先取悦上帝。” (FC,SD IV:8)

信心也是上帝的作为，为要改变我们，使我们更新变化、成为一个新造的人。“（信心）赐圣灵给我们。信仰何等活泼、勤勉、忙碌、有大能！以致不可能不止于至善。” (FC,SD IV:10)。

如此可见，凭着肉体或出于私欲野心所作的好行为，皆为我们对上帝缺乏信心的表现，也无法蒙上帝喜悦。因此，凡不出于信心的都是罪。（罗马书14章23节；希伯来书11章6节）

一个日常的例子足以证明此事。假设你是一位父亲，你告诉你正处青春期的孩子，在出去和朋友一起打篮球之前，必须先完成作业。但他

十分生气，并说 he 不想做作业。你坚定地回答他：“如果你不完成作业，就别想出去玩。”他把书包摔在地上，然后冲出房门。不久之后，你看见他在自己的房间里赶作业，一心想把作业尽早赶完。但他之所以这么做，并不是因为他相信父亲的爱和良苦用心。相反，他“顺从”他的父亲，好使他自己能够出去和他的朋友玩。

在这件事上，信义会的教导是：于救恩而言，信心对称义至关重要。但在成圣（使人成为圣洁）的道路上，信心也同样重要。诸事的开始与末了唯归于信 (FC,SD IV:34)。这样你可能会问，面对日常的生活琐事，这有什么意义呢？

sanctification (making one holy). Everything starts from faith and ends with faith (FC,SD IV:34). What is the implication for everyday living, you may ask?

I recall, as a young husband and father with a newborn and three other young children, pastoring a church that is at the other end of the island from where I live, many times I sigh and think to myself, “How wretched a fellow am I,

why take a wife and have children with all these duties for me to do? Why give up a peaceful and carefree life?” At times, I was even thinking it is better to be a celibate priest than a married pastor.

However, Luther’s words encourage me to do my work as a husband and father with faith in God. He says:

What then does Christian faith say to this? It opens its eyes, looks upon all these insignificant, distasteful, and despised duties in the Spirit, and is aware that they are all adorned with divine approval as with the costliest gold and jewels. It says, “O God, because I am certain that thou hast



Father changing diaper for a child
父亲给孩子换尿布

Photo: Courtesy of Chessa Lim
由林诗恩提供

回想当初，我是一个年轻的丈夫，又是一个新生婴孩和三个小孩子的父亲，虽然住在新加坡岛的这一端，我却需要到另一端的教会牧会。那时，我常常哀叹，自我感慨：“我真可悲啊，为什么明明已有事务缠身，却还要娶妻生子。为什么要放弃一个平静安稳的生活？”有时，我甚至觉得做一名已婚的牧者还不如做一位恪守独身的神父。

然而，路德的话鼓舞我凭着信心、在上帝里面履行我作为丈夫和父亲的职责。他说：

“然而，基督徒的信仰对上帝说些什么？它会开启它的眼睛，藉着圣灵而看清楚这一切所谓不重要的，允准的，和受人鄙视的责任，并且体会它们都是上帝所允

准的，并以最贵重的金器和宝石作装饰。它会说：“上帝啊，因为我肯定的相信你创造我成为一个男人，并且从我的身体生育这孩子，我亦肯定知道这孩子完全获你的喜悦。我得向你承认，我本来不配摇这婴孩睡觉或洗他的尿布，或受托付照顾孩子与他的母亲。我虽没有

created me as a man and hast from my body begotten this child, I also know for a certainty that it meets with thy perfect pleasure. I confess to thee that I am not worthy to rock the little babe or wash its diapers, or to be entrusted with the care of the child and its mother. How is it that I, without any merit, have come to this distinction of being certain that I am serving thy creature and thy most precious will? O how gladly will I do so, though the duties should be even more insignificant and despised. Neither frost nor heat, neither

drudgery nor labour, will distress or dissuade me, for I am certain that it is thus pleasing in thy sight.” (LW 45:39-40).

Now, with faith in my heart, trusting that even the stressful, mundane and yucky everyday duties are “duties in the Spirit” and therefore pleasing in God’s sight, even though it may be difficult. As, God is pleased to place me in this station of life at this moment (as father and husband) giving me the privilege of serving him like this, then I need not look to other people’s calling (such as being a celibate priest) but tend to my own.

You may have truly legitimate reasons to change your job in

2022. But do not do so because you want a more spiritually fulfilling job. As you look at your stations in life by faith you will be able to re-look at your job more clearly: You are made a new creature in Christ by faith, so you can bear good fruits, do good wherever you are placed. So, whether in a new job or continuing with the old one, it is not a change of life’s stations that makes a job spiritually meaningful, it is faith which is active in love that will make every day’s work spiritually meaningful. Trust God, that where he places you, or will open doors to place you, is the place where he is pleased for you to bear fruits, the good works that he had planned from eternity for you to do (Eph 2:10).

任何善行，然而我竟得着此服事你的造物、最宝贵的旨意？虽然这些职责看来是不重要的和遭人鄙视的，但我是何等乐意这样做。不管霜雪或酷暑，不论枯燥乏味或耗尽劳力，我决不会气馁或受任何事物左右，因我肯定知道这在你的眼中是蒙喜悦的。” (LW 45:39-40)

因此，存着信心，我相信即便我们的日常职责充满压力、平凡世俗、或令人厌烦，它们也是我们“在圣灵中的职责”，且正因如此，在上帝的眼中为善。尽管困难当前，但因上帝在此刻将我放在了人生的这一阶段（作为父亲和丈夫）之中，又

使我有幸以此来服事祂，这是讨神喜悦的，那么，我便无需再羡慕其他人所领受的呼召（例如：成为一个恪守独身的神父），而是定睛于我自己所领受的呼召。

或许，你确实有着合适的理由决定在2022年离职跳槽。但是，不要因为渴望找到一份能够在属灵层面给予你更多满足感的工作，就做出如此决定。如果你能够在信心中看待当下所处的这个人生阶段，你就可以重新审视、也愈加认清现有的事业：凭着信心，你已在基督里成为一个新造的人，所以，不论上帝将你放在怎样的位置上，你都可以结出好果子、坚持行善。因此，不论开始一段新的工作，或留在原有的岗位之中，迈向人生的下一个阶段并不能使我们的事业充满属灵

意义。能使日常繁琐的工作充满属灵意义的，唯有在爱中被激励的信心。相信不论上帝将你放在何处、又为你的前路敞开了哪一扇门，它们都将成为上帝所喜悦的、又使你结出果实来的地方，这结果的工作便是上帝在永恒中为你所立定的善行。

Missions Updates

by Antti Johansson

Mission work has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as the changing rules and regulations of various countries have affected on-the-ground collaboration. In particular, Rosanna has had to remain in Singapore for quite some time since returning to Thailand has been restricted till very recently. Similarly, other missionaries have also faced many limitations or issues. In spite of this, we thank God for keeping

everyone safe and healthy throughout this period.

Even so, our work with our mission partners continues. The Thailand mission has remained active through online meetings and sessions, and small scale gatherings of children and youth have resumed intermittently with Romans. In Cambodia, Chak Mun continues his work with the local church and has supported their institutional development and growth plan by setting up the

MISSIONS 信义会



Rosanna - two sisters baptised at Thai Good News Centre
两姐妹在泰国好消息中心受洗。

Romans - activities resuming to normal teaching 10 commandments
活动恢复正常 - 教导十诫。



宣教事工

Antti Johansson

宣教工作受到2019冠状病毒病大流行的影响，因为各国不断变化的规则和条例影响了实地合作。其中受影响的是Rosanna,她不得不在新加坡呆了相当长一段时间，而因为受到限制的缘故，一直到最近才能返回泰国。同样，其他宣教士也面临许多限制的问题。尽管如此，我们感谢上帝在此期间保守每个人安全和健康。

即便如此，我们与宣教伙伴

的合作仍在继续着。泰国宣教事工通过以在线方式来保持联络与团契，Romans与儿童和青年们的小型聚会也陆陆续续的恢复了。在柬埔寨，Chak Mun继续与当地教会合作，并通过建立儿童事工来支持教会的机构发展和成长计划。我们也继续与蒙古宣教事工合作，并期待欢迎他们的一位教牧同工到新加坡继续进修神学。同样，我们也与在其他地方的宣教

children's ministry. We have also continued our collaboration with the Mongolia mission and are looking forward to welcoming one of their pastoral staff for further studies here in Singapore. Similarly, mission work with our other partners remains active.

Mission work in Singapore has also advanced with the Thai Good News Centre (TGNC). Much like our local churches, the TGNC has scaled down their activities in line with national guidelines, but

continue operating within limitations that apply. In addition, operating the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission (ILSM) from Jurong Fishery Port was challenging due to a cluster outbreak earlier this year. Although the Jurong Fishery Port has undergone deep cleaning operations through July, the ILSM shelter remained off limits until 14th September, and all PSA terminals now have strict restrictions for non-essential personnel. However, the ILSM

team has taken special care to comply with safe management measures, maintaining a good relationship with the port authorities. They continue to engage and help both the fishermen and seamen as much as possible, doing so via regular ART testing, donning full PPE, as well as controlled engagement. The LCS Missions Committee has continued to meet online, and we welcome the new co-chair and EXCO representative Rev Richard Chiu and new LCS Missions Treasurer, brother Albert Lau.



Chak Mun - hostel residents outing - a sign of activities resuming from COVID lockdown

宿舍居民的郊游活动 - 从COVID恢复的迹象

Ho Tien - preparing care packs for fishermen and seafarers

为渔夫和海员准备护理包



团队保持着活跃的合作关系。

泰人福音中心在新加坡的宣教工作也取得了进展。就像我们当地的教会一样，泰人福音中心根据国家疫情指导方针而缩小了他们的活动规模，但还是能继续在限制范围内运作。此外，由于今年早些时候爆发了群体性疫情的感染，对在裕廊渔港进行宣教事工的国际信义会海员宣教事工 (ILSM) 具有相当

大的挑战性。虽然裕廊渔港在从7月份就已经展开了深度清洁工作，但 ILSM 休闲中心一直到9月14日都被禁止进入。所有 PSA 码头都对非必要人员有着严格的限制。但是，ILSM 团队有特别注意遵守安全管理措施，也与港务局保持良好关系。他们通过定期的自助拭子检测 (ART)，穿上全套个人防护装备以及受控制参与的方式，仍然能接触和帮助渔民和海员。

新加坡信义会宣教委员会在这时也继续通过网上方式进行会议，而我们也要特别欢迎新任联席主席兼执行委员会代表丘添桂牧师牧师和新任财政刘志伟弟兄。

A Promise Forgotten... God's Divine Appointment!

by Yuen Ho Tian

I was an oil trader prior to joining the International Lutheran Seafarers' Mission (ILSM) and I was in the oil and gas industry for more than twenty years. Prior to that I spent about five years in the shipping industry, particularly in the container trade. Oil and shipping are like twin sisters, very closely related. More than eighty percent of oil is transported by ships. In other words, to trade oil, you need ships. On top of that, I had a diploma in shipping and a degree in transportation.

I have spent more than half my life revolving around ships and ship related work, yet I have not heard of the "Seafarers' Mission" until 2018. The Seafarers' Mission was founded about 150 years ago and there are more than 200 Seafarers' Mission stations around the world. Even though I was closely involved in the shipping world, I only heard of its existence three years ago! What an irony!

When I set foot in the oil and gas industry, I made a promise to retire early as I would like to spend the next season of my life doing something different and hopefully meaningful. I made this

hours are not an issue, and with a high income I could retire early.

As the years went by and I was progressing well in my career, the money was good, but the promise

I made was long forgotten. However, God did not forget! He abruptly ended my oil trading career by allowing the company that I was in to cease operating almost overnight.

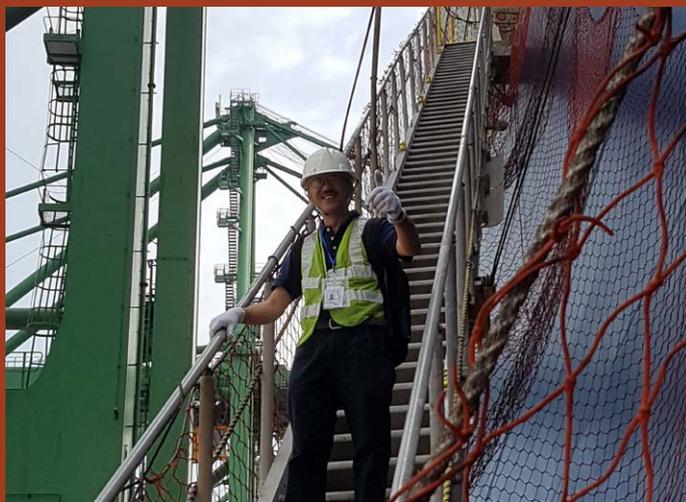
Then I was working for a small oil trading company selling petroleum products to China. We managed to secure a lucrative term contract. I was already counting the bonus I would be getting from my boss. As the saying goes, "Man proposes but God disposes!" Shortly after the contract was concluded, the oil price collapsed, the buyer defaulted, the losses were huge, and we had

no choice but to also default and walk away from our suppliers. The only way out to limit our losses was to shut the company.



Photo of the ILSM Ministry

so-called promise because I knew for a fact that the job is stressful and comes with long hours in addition to being well paying. Being young then, stress and long



Photos of the ILSM Ministry

Overnight, I became a retiree... my promise came to pass! That was in late 2017 and I was fifty-five years old, the age I was targeting to retire. Upon reflection, my involvement with the ILSM is nothing short of a divine intervention and appointment. If you pushed the envelope, you may even call it a miracle.

In 2018, I enrolled in the School of Ministry in Tung Ling Bible School. It was a time of learning, refreshing and of waiting upon the Lord for the next season of my life. I was seeking and praying for a ministry which I can serve in and yet I knew my limitations as I was not theologically trained. God in His mercy and grace directed

my wife and me to Bedok Lutheran Church (BLC). That was our first visit to BLC. We were there on the invitation of Dr Mary Tay, who was invited to teach a series of lessons on "How to read the Bible". We were there to help her in facilitating the discussion when the class was divided into smaller discussion groups. It was during the class break that my wife met Pastor Rita Wong, whom she came to know when she was also a student in Tung Ling Bible School. Pastor Rita was there to minister to the students. Through the short conversation, Pastor Rita came to learn that I was studying in Tung Ling and waiting upon the Lord's direction for the next season of my life.

Pastor Rita then introduced the Seafarers' Mission to my wife, asking her to check if I had an interest in this ministry. When I heard of it, it immediately tugged at my heart strings as most of my career revolved around ships and shipping related businesses. Immediately, I knew I had found my purpose and calling in my new season of life. In a twinkle of an eye, I've already been with this ministry for almost three years. Thanks be to God!

New Developments at Thai Good News Centre (TGNC)

by Dr Samuel Wang

“Conservation of Golden Mile Complex paves way to protect S’pore’s modernist buildings”

– *The Straits Times*, 25th October 2021.

Golden Mile Complex was in the news as the 48 years old building was gazetted for conservation by the Singapore government. But many people did not know that this building was where Rev Rickson Leong had laboured for the last 25 years, reaching out to the Thai people that gathered, giving it the monicker “Little Thailand”. Out of this preaching point, the LCS had sowed seeds of the gospel and harvested many souls over the years.

In the beginning, this ministry ministers to mainly migrant or transient workers from Thailand. Many are male construction workers, they populated Singapore’s building and construction industry since the 1980s. But they cannot stay in Singapore after their work contract ends.

Over the years, Pastor Rickson Leong had been a blessing to many, preaching the gospel and

helping to train Thai workers in English and basic computer skills. He also visits construction workers who are injured and hospitalised and translate for Thai people who need help in Singapore.

On top of this outreach work, Pastor Leong actively led the Thai-speaking congregation and gave them a home away from home at the TGNC, encouraging and teaching them to give gospel

construction workers in Singapore, and the Thai people coming to TGNC ministry have increasingly been Thai women who marry Singaporean men. TGNC adjusted to become both Thai and English speaking so that Singaporeans who married Thai people could worship together as a married couple. So, when you worship at TGNC, the Thai Christian songs will come with English subtitles, the sermon is



BLC Mission Board visit TGNC. (Left to Right - Bernard Chan, Paul Ang, Sis Kawee, Lee Seng Juay and Dr Samuel Wang)

tracts to those who frequent Golden Mile Complex. Due to the increasing number of Singaporean and Thai married couples, Pastor Leong also helps in their marital problems. Today, there are few Thai

a translation either from English to Thai or Thai to English, and when you speak English, you will likely be able to make yourself understood. LCS had noted these new developments, and under the recommendation of Rev Leong, a

long-time member of TGNC, a Thai sister, Kawee Fuangnoi was called to serve as a parish worker in November 2021.

The Triune One, whom we partner in missions, continually surprises us. No one could have foreseen how God arranged for a renewal of leadership at TGNC. Missionary Rosanna Hutagalung was on home leave from Thailand and was attached to TGNC in September 2020 due to the COVID epidemic, which prevented her from going back to Thailand. Then, as she got involved in TGNC, it became clear that God was calling her back to Singapore to minister. She was then reassigned by LCS to TGNC in January 2022. Pastor Leong then decided to take early retirement by March 2022 as he saw that the ministry was now in good hands.

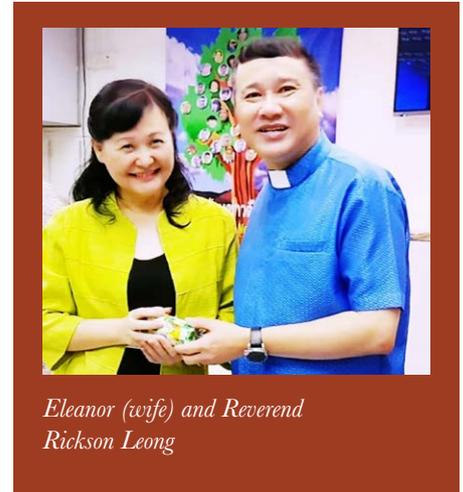
The Lutheran asks Pastor Rickson Leong to share his story in an email interview.

How did you become a Pastor of LCS?

I grew up attending Sunday School when Queenstown Lutheran Church was established in 1966. Later on, I joined the Boys Brigade (BB), and eventually the Youth Fellowship. As an adult, I began to serve as a Sunday School Teacher and joined the Evangelism Committee. That led me to join the full-time ministry alongside other pastors and parish workers from QLC (Rev Edmund Lim, Dorcas Yeo, Rev Terry Kee, Rev Dr William Chiang and Jason Wong).

What was it like in the “old days” when you were a pastor at Bedok Lutheran Church (BLC)?

As Assistant Pastor, I looked after the Youth Fellowship, Young Adult Fellowship, Adult Sunday School, BB and Cell group on top of my other pastoral duties. I also started the Filipino Fellowship, Ministry to the Handicapped, Girls Brigade (GB), and the Lay Training Programme (for Deacons). It was exciting to see the church increase the worship services from two to three.



Eleanor (wife) and Reverend Rickson Leong

It was a great joy to see BLC producing members who joined full-time ministry (Dr. Then Chee Min, Roger Ong, Mei Ling, Rev Fredrick Lee, Rev Rita Wong, Rev Daniel Ang, Rev Dr Samuel Wang, Dr. Benson Goh, Cheryl Lee, Calvin Ho and missionary Rosanna Hutagalung).

Can you tell us more about your missionary experience in Thailand with your wife?

As I was the first missionary sent to Thailand (1993-1996), it was difficult getting support from the church. Additionally, it was a challenge adjusting to a new



Left to Right - Rosanna Hutagalung , Kawee and Dr Samuel Wang



Lee Seng Juay preaching

culture and learning the Thai language, as well as getting to know our mission partner [in Thailand].

How many years have you served in the TGNC? What were some of the joys you'd like to give thanks for & some of the challenges you've faced there?

I thank God and LCS for supporting me in the past 25 years at TGNC.

It wasn't easy to engage members who participated in immoral activities such as adultery, drugs, or human-trafficking, especially in the early years [of the ministry], and it has taken several years to become what we are today.

During my time here at the TGNC, we have produced many members who became pastors and full-time workers in the church in Thailand, such as Dr Poonsi, Banjon, Worachet, Pitak,

Phetchara, Tawee and most recently, Kawee.

I would like to thank the TGNC members who has been so gracious, and patient, and supportive all these years. Many of them have now become some of my closest friends who I can confide in.

Why did you opt for early retirement?

I chose to take a step back after seeing both Rosanna and Kawee settling well into the ministry at TGNC.

The LCS Missions Committee scheduled all LCS congregations to visit TGNC throughout the year to get to know "Little Thailand" in our midst and TGNC. On Sunday, 9th January 2021, Bedok Lutheran Church visited and worshipped together

with them. The Missions Board Chairperson Bernard Chan, with Paul and Helen Ang and Lee Seng Juay, came and Seng Juay gave a sermon on "What a Mighty God We Serve" from the Book of Joshua, chapter 3.

As I interviewed the Thai congregation to write this article, I heard many of them say in agreement that Rev Rickson Leong is like a father to them, and they will miss him, he had helped whoever that sought assistance at TGNC, and they are grateful to him.

You can get involved. Just check with your church Missions Committee as to when they will visit TGNC. Due to the transient nature of the ministry, the support of LCS congregation members will significantly encourage the Thai members and their pastoral team when you see them.

My Journey and Reflection

by Su Rui Hua

In the twinkling of an eye, it has been one and a half years since I “downgraded” from a teacher to a student. It was difficult to come out of the teaching profession after having been in it for 16 years having provided bread and butter

for my family of five. However, even so, the call from God has been relentless yet gentle. It was not till a near-death experience that I made the bold step towards full-time ministry.

My experience as a student in

TTC has been overwhelming to say the least. Never before had I read so many books or written so many essays in such a short period of time. Amidst the heavy academic requirements, I also had to take part in community service, where I naturally chose to be part of the choir. Apart from these, I was also a member of the Student Council. I found heading the Spiritual Formation committee particularly rewarding since spiritual practice is something close to my heart. Though the journey thus far has not been easy, I thank God for my classmates who have walked alongside me.

Personally, this year’s field education was an especially fruitful one. I was attached to the

EDUCATION

教育

我旅程的反思

苏锐桦

眨眼间，我从老师“降级”到学生已经有一年半了。事实上，从事了16年之久的教学工作后，再从这行业走出来不是一件容易的事。毕竟，它养活了我一家五口。然而，上帝的温柔的呼召从没停顿过。直到经历了一次濒死体验，我才大胆地迈出了第一步，回应上帝的呼召，走出了我的舒适区，预

备好全职事奉的开始。

在三一神学院的课业压力是相当重。我以前从未在如此短（今年我就读第二年了）的时间内读过这么多书或写过这么多文章。在繁重的课业要求中，还须参加社体服务。我很自然是进入学校的合唱团。除此之外，我还是学生会的成员。最有意义的

是，我有机会带领属灵塑造委员会。正好灵性修养是最贴近我心。虽然到目前为止，读书旅程并不是那么容易，但我感谢上帝，我有要好的同学和我一起同行。

今年的实地教育对我来说特别丰富。从一月到十二月，我在直落亚逸卫理公会堂实习。在这期间，我有机会参与各种事工，如青年事工，主日学事工和老年人事工。除了必须参加三种语言的崇拜（英语，华话和福建话）之外，我还有机会教主日学和洗礼班。也许最奇怪又最独特的经历是我有机会用福建话向老年人讲道！我自己不是福建人，因此这任务变得更加困难。

Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church from January to December, and had the opportunity to work in various ministries such as the Youth ministry, Sunday School ministry, as well as the Seniors' ministry. Besides having to attend services in three languages (English, Mandarin and Hokkien), I also got the chance to conduct Sunday school and baptism classes. Perhaps the strangest and most unique experience I had was preaching a sermon to seniors in Hokkien! Not being a Hokkien myself, the task was not easy, but being part of the Hokkien

fellowship for a few months helped somewhat in increasing my proficiency. I also discovered two ways to learn Hokkien or any other language- one is listening and reading the Scriptures while the other is learning to sing hymns in that language.

My family has been a pillar of support for me this past year - this journey would have been a lot more arduous without their support and approval. A lot of burden has been heaped onto my wife, who is now the sole breadwinner of the family. With less time to spend with her and

the family, I've learnt to treasure every bit of free time with them. We enjoy having dinner and watching Disney+ at the same time! The whole family is also kept busy looking after our three cute pet rabbits. My boys and I also love playing FIFA on PS4 and keeping up with our favourite football team, Liverpool. May God continue to bless and lead us as the call to serve Him is not just for me alone, but also for the entire family. The words of the hymn writer Joseph H. Gilmore sum up my journey - "He leadeth me, He leadeth me, By His own hand He leadeth me; His faithful follower I would be, For by His hand He leadeth me."



*Serving together with Admond at TTC Chapel
与健成一同在三一早祷会事奉。*



*Out shopping as a family during pre-COVID times.
在疫情之前一家人逛街*

但是参加了福建团契几个月后确实有助于提高我福建话的程度。我发现了两种学习福建话（或任何其他语言）的最佳方法。一个是听和读福建圣经，另一个是学习唱福建赞美诗歌！

在过去的一年里，我的家人一直是我的支柱。如果没有他们的支持，这段旅程将会是更加艰难。这一年半来，

我的妻子独自肩负起了养家糊口的重任。自从我进入三一以来，我与家人在一起过的时间也越来越少。之所以，我学会了珍惜与他们共处每一点空闲时间。我们喜欢边吃晚饭边观看Disney+节目。全家人也被三只可爱的宠物兔子忙得团团转。我的儿子们也爱和我一起FIFA足球游戏上拼个高低，也爱在周末时一同追看我们最喜

爱的足球队利物浦的赛事！但愿上帝继续祝福与保守我们，因为事奉他的呼召不仅是只给我一个人，而是整家庭的呼召。诗歌著者Joseph H. Gilmore的词足以代表我的旅程“祂带领我，祂带领我，祂是亲手在带领我；不分时地，我都随着，因祂亲手在带领我。”

Women and the Bible

by Rev Rita Wong

Organised by LCS Education Committee, this virtual seminar saw almost 50 participants, including two ordained male pastors. Dr Maggie Low of Trinity Theological College expertly walked us through questions and answers relating to women's roles, as well as their status/authority, vis-à-vis men.

In Genesis 2:18, 'helper' is translated from *'ezer kenegdo'*, meaning a partner who is like (*ke*) his opposite (*negdo*) is the same but complementary. The woman is called to the roles of companionship and vocation – both in *imago dei* (in the image of God) and rulership (management of creation). The naming of the animals (Genesis 2:20ff) by Adam was not an act of authority, but rather a search for a helper. 1 Corinthians 11, verses 11 and 12 tell us that the relationship between the man and the woman is one of mutual respect, and not of superiority, as some may argue since Adam was created first. Adam leaving father and mother in Genesis 2, verses 24 and 25 is not a change of duty (to parents) but one of priority, with the emphasis being on how to become one as husband and wife.

Eve is often blamed for being the one who sinned, having eaten the forbidden fruit first. However, Adam was there and equally complicit in the act (Genesis 3:6). Furthermore, Romans 5:12 says, "... sin entered the world through

one man..."

Can a woman have authority over a man, or be permitted to teach (1 Timothy 2:12)? Should she be subordinate to the man because of the order of their creation (1 Timothy 2:13)? Timothy's faith was nurtured by his grandmother and mother (2 Timothy 1:5; 3:14). Junia (Romans 16:7) was the name of a female apostle. In Acts 18:2, 18 & 26, we see the progression from Aquila and Priscilla to Priscilla and Aquila. In short, women were recognised for their roles and stature. Hence, in 1 Timothy 2:12, Paul was not saying that women should not have authority. Rather, he forbade women to usurp authority (translated from *'authenteo'* which means domineering and has a negative connotation).

The Ephesian passage of 5:22 & 23 draws a parallel between the relationships of husbands and wives and that of the church and Christ. The phrase "as to the Lord" (verse 22) signals both motivation and limitation (that which is right in the eyes of the Lord, and not something forced upon) of the wife's relationship to the husband. Just as Christ is the head (*kephala*), meaning source of the church, so also is the husband the source of the wife (cf Genesis 2:23). Thus, 'head' in Ephesians 5:23 does not mean the husband having authority over the wife. Rather, as in verse 21, the exhortation is to submit (*hypotasso*) to one another out of reverence



to Christ. Harking back to Genesis 2:8, Eve is to be *ezer* (partner) to Adam. Hence, the call to love and submission in Ephesians 5:21ff means mutual submission, and self-sacrifice (verse 25), to emphasise the one-flesh union between husband and wife.

Rev Dr Maggie Low is an ordained minister of the Presbyterian Church of Singapore (PCS). She has a law degree from the National University of Singapore and served as a Varsity Christian Fellowship staff worker with the Fellowship of Evangelical Students (FES) where she helped to establish their missions training programme. She was also a pastor at Ang Mo Kio Presbyterian Church (AMKPC) for 11 years, during which she built up the Chaplaincy of Presbyterian High School. She led the Church for 8 of those years and was ordained as the lead pastor in 2001.

Alpha Course #12

by Alvin Loh

An evangelistic programme, conducted with a hybrid model (online & onsite) anchored by QLC, participated by other LCS churches.

The twelfth run of the Alpha course in Queenstown Lutheran Church (QLC) started in earnest in mid-August 2021, with the Alpha core team of QLC coming together to plan for this new run. Although we have tons of experience in running the “normal” on-site Alpha, where

lots of physical activities and eating take place; we are relatively new to the model of having Alpha guests and participants attending both onsite and online, presenting us with new logistic and technical challenges.

One of the objectives of this Alpha course is to help create awareness and correct some misconceptions about Alpha and how it is run in QLC to our sister churches in the Lutheran Church in Singapore (LCS). Three of our Alpha core team members also sit in the LCS evangelistic and outreach standing committee, helping to bring across this message and dissemination of information about this programme.

OUTREACH

外展

第十二次启发课程

卢传斌

结合线上与线下两种形式、由女皇镇信义会主办、其它信义会教会参与的宣教课程。

2021年八月中旬，第十二次启发课程在女皇镇信义会火热开展。女皇镇信义会启发核心团齐聚一堂，共同计划新一轮课程的各项事宜。在线下开展启发课程方面，我们已积累了许多经验，当时，我们可以正常开

展实体活动、享用美食，但这一次，启发的同工和参与者需要在线上和线下同时参与，由于我们尚未尝试过这种新的模式，因此在组织安排和技术层面都面对着许多新的挑战。

这次启发课程的目标之一是帮助我们建立新的认知、更正对启发的误解、以及加深对如何在女皇镇信义会以及其它新加坡信义会的姐妹堂会开展启发课程的认识。来自启发核心团的三名成员也参与了新加坡信义会宣教与外展委员会，以帮助相关思想的传播，分享关于这个项目的信息。

将开始日期定于2021年9月15日之后，启发团队迅速进行

The team determined the starting date of 15th September 2021 and quickly worked out the publicity plan for LCS churches and within QLC.

A series of digital e-invitations were sent out to our members weekly for three weeks through bulletins and announcements, generating excitement about inviting our friends and colleagues. We also used Eventbrite to manage the registrations online which was a blessing. We conducted Alpha

Course training for all helpers and team members on the 8th of September 2021, one week prior to the start of Alpha. This was to keep our helpers fresh about Alpha and to most, it was a revision as many have served in previous runs. We are indeed blessed to have Jurong Christian Church (JCC), Bedok Lutheran Church (BLC) and Lutheran Church of our Redeemer (LCOR) brothers and sisters-in-Christ to serve in this ministry with QLC. Many came forward to serve in this ministry with QLC. Many came forward to serve as

facilitators, helpers, song leaders and logistics people.

On 15th September 2021, we had 45 guests and helpers in total, divided into four groups; of which three were English groups and one Chinese speaking group. What a great start! We are under no illusion that all the guests would stay and complete the course from start to finish. Indeed, about half of the guests remained, but many also came onboard mid-way through the course. We normally do not accept guests after three sessions, however, we



Queenstown Lutheran Church Alpha Team
女皇镇信义会启发课程团队

面向女皇镇信义会及至其它新加坡信义会教会的宣发。

一系列线上邀请通过单张和报告的形式被送到会友的手上，为期三周，激发了大家邀请朋友和同事前来参与课程的热情。我们也使用了 Eventbrite，这个平台成为了我们管理线上注册进程的祝福。2021年9月8日，启发课程开始的一周前，我们为所有协助者和团队成员开展课程

培训。我们也得到了来自裕廊基督教会、勿洛信义会和信义会救主堂的各位主内弟兄姐妹的帮助，他们在这项事工中的服事成为了我们莫大的祝福。许多人来到我们当中，成为了我们的同工、帮助我们、领唱诗歌、协助后勤。

2021年9月15日，含参与者与同工一共有45人参与课程，共分为四组，包括三个英文小组和一个中文小组。多么美好的开

始！我们从未期待所有人都会我们从未期待所有人都会从始至终地完成所有课程。确实，约有一半参与者选择留下，也有许多人在课程中期参与到其中。通常，我们在三个课程过后便不再接受新成员加入，但是，特殊情况下我们有时也会有所通融。其实，那些带着朋友或同事来到我们当中的人也不一定需要全程参与，当他们邀请来的人在小组中感觉自在

did make exceptions time to time for special cases. We also wanted to mention those who brought their friends and colleagues were not expected to stay throughout, but only till their guests are comfortable in the group. So, many of our congregational members stuck around for two to three sessions in the beginning, then dropped off the course as planned. It was encouraging to see pastors and members of both language ministries in the LCS coming together, united for Christ in reaching out to the lost. In fact, we had a sizeable participation from our Mainland Chinese ministry led by sister Grace Ho Shoo Mei from JCC Chinese section.

Alpha is not just for pre-believers. Many who came to Alpha are

either new to the faith or simply wanted to “rejuvenate” their relationship with Christ. We are so privileged to journey with them. In all, we have seen four participants who came forward and give their lives to Jesus Christ, proclaiming him as their Lord and Saviour. Three of them are continuing with QLC for their post-Alpha course using Luther’s Small Catechism, a course leading

**“Dear Alpha team,
What a privilege you
have been given by Abba
Father God to spend your
lives and giftings giving
His love away. Thank you
for the ways the team
invest your lives in the
lives of others – the Alpha
participants.”**

Rev Eric Chan

towards baptism planned for the 26th of December 2021.

Overall, we’ve had a wonderful course, with a weekly average attendance of thirty-four to thirty-five people, conducted both online via Zoom and onsite. We had our fair share of technical glitches and hiccups, but our joy and sense of purpose in fulfilling our great commission drives and compels us to do our best to reach out to the lost for Jesus. We are already planning for the next Alpha starting this year after Chinese New Year, from 16th Feb to 20th Apr 2022. Join the next Alpha course, invite many who have not yet come to know Christ. To find out more, ask the pastors or representatives of the church in the LCS Community Outreach Committee. See you in the next Alpha course in QLC!

时，他们就可以离开了。所以，许多会友在起初参与两节课后便如期离开。看着许多新加坡信义会英文部和华文部的牧者和会友同心、合一地为主寻找迷羊，实在令人鼓舞万分。事实上，也有许多参与者来自中国大陆事工，这项事工由裕廊基督教会中文部的教区同工Grace Ho Shoo Mei带领。

启发并不仅仅是为慕道友而开展。许多人来到这里，或是处在信仰旅程的起步阶段，也或是单纯地想要更新自己与基督的关系，而我们，则有幸能与他们同行。我们一共见证了四位参与者做出回应，愿意将一生献给耶稣基督，又承认耶稣是他们的救主。其中，有三人留在女皇镇信义会，继续参加

**“致启发团：
这是从阿爸天父而来的何等殊荣，我们竟得以用我们的生命和恩赐来分享祂的爱。谢谢你们将你们的生命与他人分享，造就了启发参与者们的生命。”**

陈志强牧师

路德小教理问答课程，这项课程接续启发，预备和带领人们迈向2021年12月26日的洗礼。

总的来说，这是一场精彩纷呈的课程，每周线上与线下参与的人数平均为34到35人。虽然我们不出所料地在技术层面上出现了一些问题和小插曲，但完成大使命的喜悦和决心带动着我们、

也成就了我们的，使我们尽心尽力地为耶稣寻找走迷的小羊。我们已经决定在今年春节过后（2022年2月16日至4月20日）开始下一场启发课程。来吧，参与我们的下一次启发，邀请更多尚未认识基督的人来到我们当中。详情可以咨询教会牧者或新加坡信义会社区外展委员会的代表。下一场女皇镇信义会启发课程，我们不见不散！

Goshen Initiative

by Peggy Tan

Club Allegra (Kids 7-12)

Carnival Day (quarterly)
Reading Programme
Sporting Activities
Tuition

Social Living

Elder-Fun/ Care Corner
Friendship Corner
Kampong Spirit

***We
will
build
these
GOSHEN
Bridges***

Skilling

Special Interest Groups
Upskilling Workshops
Professional Networking

Counselling / Coaching

Hearing Ears
Career Guidance
Ministry

Giving & Receiving

Free 2nd hand Goodies
Barang2exchange
Errand help
Food fare/ Distribution

The Prompting

Starting late 2019, the Covid-19 pandemic took the world by storm. As much as we ourselves were challenged by the Covid-19 pandemic, we counted our blessings and strongly felt the urgency to realign ourselves according to God’s purposes under the “new normal” circumstances. We had to reach out with urgency to our neighbours who were in need of both physical and spiritual succour.

As we see the needs among our neighbours, how can we muster up tangible efforts to share Christ’s love?

The Inspiration

We were inspired by the story of Goshen in Genesis 47.

Goshen was a blessed place in Egypt where Joseph settled his estranged father and brothers. There they experienced God’s blessings during a famine crisis. In Goshen, the Israelites “were fruitful and increased greatly in number.” (Gen 47:27)

Rev Anthony Loh says, “Goshen testifies of God’s provision and blessings. It evidences God calling His people and setting them apart. It tells of restoration, protection, healing, and the multiplying of God’s people as blessings received became blessings shared.”

We can be like Goshen in this respect during a pandemic crisis.

The Launch

Hence, the Goshen Initiative was launched in June 2021, just after our JCC AGM.

We endeavour to reach out to the community with love and care through the building of various Goshen Bridges— different links to the community through which differentiated services are provided to cater to various needs.

Manna Bridge

The Manna Bridge was launched on 18 June 2021. It is a food distribution effort to reach the needy in Taman Jurong. It is a valuable experience in uncharted waters, working the ground in the “new normal” circumstances. With pandemic safety precautions in place, we are glad that volunteers from cell groups step forward to render godly service without being browbeaten by fear. With the Manna bridge, one sister who used to worship together was brought back to church and will be baptised in December 2021. Several families also connected with us for their kids to join the Allegra KidsREAD Club—our next Goshen Bridge.



Allegra KidsREAD Club

The Allegra KidsREAD Club was launched on 4th September 2021 in association with the National kidsREAD programme by the National Library Board to promote the love of reading and cultivate good reading habits among young Singaporeans, specifically children from low-income families between the ages of four and eight.

We recruited eight children to join us after they were informed of the programme through our Manna Bridge initiative. Our volunteers engage the kids through storytelling, art and craft, and games.



Bridge by Bridge

The Goshen Initiative is not just one activity. It involves ongoing planning, building bridge by bridge to form links that enable people to enter JCC as the Goshen Centre—a place where they discover God's blessings, to have and to share, and to multiply their numbers.

We are continuing to explore collaborations for outreach partnerships with our tenant churches in the JCC Hub after our first meeting on 16th Oct 2021.

We have other ideas in gestation: Urban farming in JCC premises to share the fruits of our labour, Home Recovery Support for Covid cases, engaging with the vulnerable people under the MSF-supported Vulnerable-in-Community (VIC) Network to name a few.

Obviously, the work is not easy. As we make our plans, God enables and guides us along.

Single Parents Project

This is a project that started in 2019, and we are continuing with it under our Goshen Initiative. In this project, volunteers have a one-hour session each week with children from single-parent homes. In collaboration with Fei Yue Family Services, we provide suitable help to meet the needs of the families.

LUTHERAN COMMUNITY CARE SERVICES 信义社区关怀服务

Blessed to BLESS

by James Lim and Kek Seow Ling

“And who is my neighbour?” – this was the question the expert in the law asked Jesus in the parable of the Good Samaritan. Through the subsequent conversations, the expert realised that the focus should not be on whom he can

help. Rather, the question he should ask is ‘Am I being a good neighbour to others?’ Answering that question is also the ‘why’ behind the work of Lutheran Community Care Services (LCCS).

Set up as LCS’ community outreach arm, LCCS aims to demonstrate being good neighbours to the wider society through its initiatives to address issues of sexual harm, family violence, bullying, poverty, and reintegration of persons involved in the criminal justice system. LCCS actively engages and partners with individuals, families, and community stakeholders to build and sustain positive relationships in schools, institutions, and the community to enable individuals to thrive. Through its restorative approach, LCCS seeks to be a peacemaker to repair harm and restore relationships to foster healing and growth.

蒙福的祝福

林俊良和揭晓伶

“谁是我的邻舍呢？- 这是律法在“好撒马利亚人”的喻言中问耶稣的问题。通过随后的对话，律法家意识到，重点不是在他能帮助谁。相反，他应该问的是‘我是否是别人的好邻居？’回答这个问题也是信义会社区关

怀服务 (LCCS) 事工背后的“原因”。

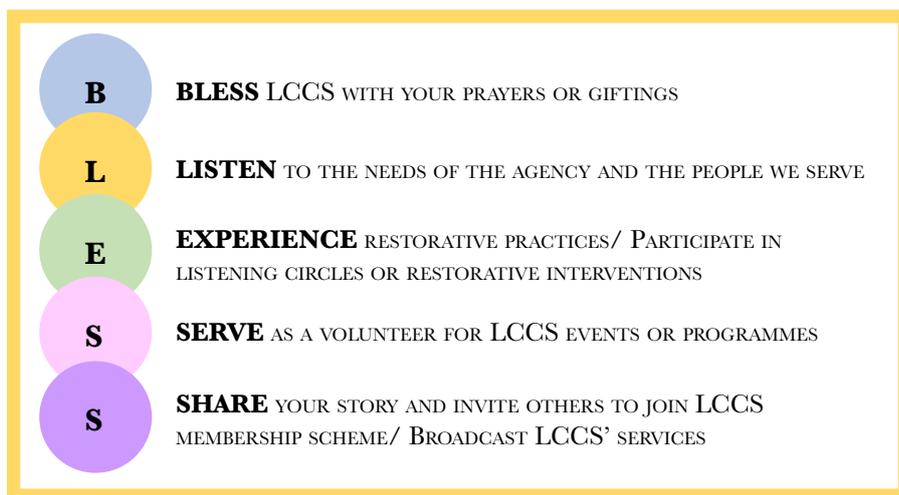
作为信义会的社区外展部门，LCCS旨在通过倡议和解决问题如性伤害、家庭暴力、欺凌、贫困以及参与刑事司法系统，帮助人民重返

社会等举措，向广大社会展示好邻居的形象。LCCS积极地与个人、家庭和社区利益关系人合作，在学校、机构和社区建立和维持良好的关系，以帮助当事者能够茁壮成长。通过其恢复性的方法，LCCS祈求成为一个修复伤害和恢复关系的和平调解者，以促进人际关系的愈合和成长。

然而，社会的需求和挑战一直在演变和增加，尤其是在冠状疫情广范散播以后更为显注。为了做得更多，LCCS意识到需要与LCS的会众建

However, societal needs and challenges have been evolving and increasing, especially since the start of the pandemic. To do more, LCCS recognises the need for greater and tighter partnerships with the LCS congregations.

To foster closer collaboration with the LCS, LCCS has launched a membership scheme for LCS congregation members who are passionate about the vision and mission of LCCS. Through regular engagements, these members can have a deeper understanding of LCCS' work and its impact. They will also have voting rights at LCCS' annual general meetings. The members contribute through BLESSing LCCS in the following ways:



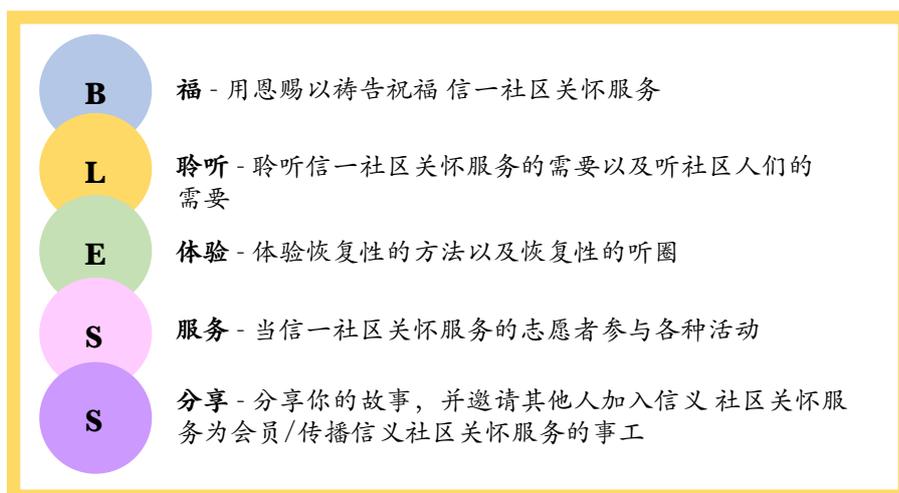
We are thankful to have five representatives from all five LCS congregations participating in the scheme: Foo Jang Kae (BLC), Pasang Namgel Lama (LCOR), Elizabeth Tan Siew Khim (JCC),

Alice Lim Li Choo (QLC), and Gideon Ma (YCCL). We had our first meeting on the 4th of October 2021. We had a good time sharing and discussing

立更繁多、更紧密的伙伴关系。

为了促进与LCS的紧密合作，LCCS为那些对它的愿景和使命有炽热的LCS会众推出了一个会员计划。通过定期的交流，这些会员可以更深入地了解LCCS的工作和它的影响。他们也将LCCS的年度大会上拥有投票权。

会员们通过BLESSing LCCS在以下做出贡献：



我们很感谢有五位来自LCS五个堂会的代表参与这个计划。他们是符陽凱(BLC), Pasang Namgel Lama(LCOR), 陈秀琴(JCC), 林莉珠(QLC)和

马俊贤(YCCL)。我们在2021年10月4日举行了第一次会议。我们很愉快地分享和讨论了LCCS目前的工作和倡

LCCS' current work and initiatives, as well as possible areas of involvement for LCS members.

Through these members, we are hopeful that LCCS' work and partnership opportunities can be shared extensively with all the LCS congregations. If you would like to offer your giftings and be a blessing through LCCS' work,

please feel free to speak with these members or reach out to us at admin@lccs.org.sg.



议，以及LCS会友可以参与的领域。

通过这些成员，我们希望LCCS的事工和合作机会可以广泛的与所有LCS的堂会分享。如果您愿意提供您的赠礼，并通过LCCS的事工成为一种祝福，请随时与这些会

员联系，或通过 admin@lccs.org.sg 与我们联系。

LUTHERAN WORLD FEDERATION

My Journey at COP26

by Rebecca Rajakanthan

‘COP26’, ‘UNFCCC’, ‘Carbon Trading’ – these were terms and acronyms that I had never heard of prior to August 2021. And yet, thanks to an email sent out by LCS from the Lutheran World Federation (LWF), I found myself heading to the world’s largest climate change conference hosted by the United Nations, in Glasgow. Doesn’t God work in the most exciting ways?!

If you too, have never come across these terms, don’t worry! You’re not alone. COP26 (The 26th Session of the Conference of the Parties) is an annual meeting held by the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change), where heads of states, NGOs, corporate lobbyists,

media personnel, and faith-based organizations (like us!) come together to negotiate and attempt to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. Every country and negotiating group has extremely diverse priorities and challenges to overcome when it comes to this target – for example, you have fossil-fuel dependent countries on one hand, and low-lying island states that are sinking rapidly on the other hand – and that’s why 2 weeks are needed to iron out agreements. It makes for a very intensive and detailed, albeit to commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and limiting global warming to 1.5 degrees celsius. Every country and negotiating group has extremely

diverse priorities and challenges to overcome when it comes to this target – for example, you have fossil-fuel dependent countries on one hand, and low-lying island states that are sinking rapidly on the other hand – and that’s why 2 weeks are needed to iron out agreements. It makes for a very intensive and detailed, albeit necessary process. I am immensely grateful to LCS and the LWF for the privilege and the blessing to have been there in person, and I hope that next year for COP27 (in Egypt), even more Singaporean youth can have the chance to be immersed in such a global experience.

I attended the COP from the 1st to the 12th of November with a delegation of 32 youth (4 in



(From left to right) Kata Kuhnert from the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada, Rebecca from LCS, and Natan Schumann from the Evangelical Church of the Lutheran Confession in Brazil

Glasgow, and 28 online) from Lutheran churches all over the world. During the weeks leading up to Glasgow, we were put through an intensive week-long workshop to learn the language and proceedings of the UN process. From the get-go, the first thing that struck me was the reality of how careless we have been with God's creation. The word 'careless' even, is an understatement. Right now, we are at a crossroads where we can turn the tide or keep heading on a course towards making Earth unliveable for future generations. During our sessions, we would lament about the inaction from world leaders, and pray for voices of the people to be heard. In coming together and meeting everyday, we drew hope from the Word, in a situation that carried little of it. Our meetings continued into the conference and they became a highlight to me, because each one was a reminder of the work that Lutherans are doing around the world, and that our impact is truly felt and heard!

Soon, the time came to take our pre-departure tests, fill up the multitude of forms, pack our winter jackets, and fly off to Glasgow to meet each other in person for the second week of the conference. Upon landing, my first interaction with the people from all over the globe who arrived for COP26 was a type of experience that is other-worldly to Singaporeans – a protest! In Glasgow alone, 100,000 people marched through the streets for 6 hours in the cold wind and rain to call leaders to action, while protests also took place in 100 more countries.

The difference between watching these protests on Channel News Asia or the BBC, and actually being there in the midst of one, is stark. I couldn't help but feel the spirit of desperation and the cries for help from the people on the ground. I had just one question, which I posed to my Canadian Lutheran friend, Kata Kuhnert (pictured below). 'What does this achieve?' Her answer was one that

I held onto for the rest of my time at COP26 – 'it keeps hope alive.'

Later on in the week, the LWF youth held our very own mini-protest in the conference venue, with the help of ACT alliance (a global coalition of churches and organizations). Our theme was 'creation is not for sale', and we highlighted how fossil fuel lobbyists and governments choose to ignore human rights, global warming, and the damages to less developed countries, in favour of profits and money. "God saw everything that God had made and it was very good" – Genesis 1:31. Out of love for all that our Creator has made, we shouted till our voices went hoarse, and we garnered a nice crowd!

Over the ensuing days, we attended strategy sessions, worshipped together at Glasgow Cathedral in a special service for COP26, supported each other in speaking on panels, met our country delegations, joined world leaders in the plenary (the main



Kata Kuhnert and Rebecca at the climate march



Our 'Creation is Not for Sale' demonstration



A selfie with the Archbishop of the Church of Sweden after a worship service at the Glasgow Cathedral



Loss and damage was a hot topic at COP26, about the aid and protection of those harmed the most by climate change

gathering venue at COP), went through many interviews, had meetings, visited the different pavilions that countries and groups had set up, networked with leaders (our Minister for Environment, Ms Grace Fu, included) and other youth, and spread awareness on social media.

As a newbie to the world of activism for climate change, I learned a lot at a very rapid pace, and went through many emotions during the 2 weeks. If I were to share all that I absorbed and came across, this article would be 20 pages long! So I shall share the main theme of what I witnessed and what God impressed upon my heart.

I saw and experienced many

gaping divides between the people of the global south and the global north. Rich and wealthy nations were the loudest voices at the conference because of the privilege of the resources and opportunities that they had, to push for their agendas during negotiations and in front of the media.

However, what were the most important voices to me were those that went largely unheard – indigenous people, countries devastated by climate change, and those that simply did not have the financial resources to overcome the obstacles of showing up to a global conference during a pandemic.

In Singapore, we are in a unique

situation – as a wealthy nation and people with financial and innovative resources, surrounded by poorer Asian countries, we are in a position to provide direct help to those that are anguishing. Even more so, as people of faith, we have a responsibility to pray and stand up for those that the world does not see, just as Christ did. I left Glasgow with an anger at the injustice that is going unnoticed, and a desire to put on the discipline of hope every single day to fight against that injustice by sharing the love for our land with others. Protecting creation has become personal to me, and I pray that slowly but surely, this shall be so for all people and all nations.

Christian Heritage Trail

by Lim Chee Peng

Tracing the foot steps of our Christian Pioneers

I was teaching Sunday School to upper primary school kids 5 years ago and I wanted to do something away from the usual classroom-worksheet form of instruction. I also hoped to infuse a sense of Singapore church history to bridge the 2000+ years gap between the bible stories they learnt and the current church context. So, armed with some readings from Bobby Sng's titular book "In His Good Time", I obtained permission from the parents and brought the kids to explore buildings that traced the pioneering spirit of early missionaries in the Bras Basah Bugis precinct.

A couple of years later, I secured some funding from MCCY to embark on the Christian Heritage Trail (19th century). Starting from the first trail for the public in July 2019, we had over 300 participants in a year. The 19th century trail covered the contributions and pioneering work of Rev. William Keasberry, Maria Dyer, Sophia Cooke, Sophia Blackmore, Father Jean-Marie Beurel and Rev. William Oldham. In mid-2021, we expanded into Christian Heritage Trail



Sunday school outing in 2016, in front of the iconic facade of Prinsep Street Presbyterian Church

(20th century) to cover the work of vernacular ministries and churches such as Singapore Life Church, Kum Yam Methodist Church, St Nicholas Girls' School, Catholic High School. In early 2021, the Tapestry Trail came under the oversight of Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer.

By then, a dozen volunteer guides from various churches and denominations joined our guide team. Around mid-2020, we pivoted to offering virtual trails using old photographs and maps to bring the audience back to the past. While both the Christian

Heritage Trail (19th and 20th century) covered the Bras Basah Bugis precinct, a new AuKang trail started in November 2021 to explore the role of the Teochew Catholics in the development of what was then heavily forested lands of the current Hougang area. It drew vignettes from various literary works that are read in situ by trail participants for them to experience the kampung experience vicariously.

Many of the Christian participants were surprised to discover the inspiring stories of the early Christian missionaries.



Public trail participants in front of Singapore Life Church



The kids helping each other to narrate the Cathedral of the Good Shepherd story.

As for non-Christian participants, which account for about a third of the participants, they appreciated the historical presentation of Christianity.

In mid-2021, we partnered with The Treasure Box to run a series of trails catered for families with young children. We modified the narrative to inject some interactive activities. At Mt. Sophia, we will share the account of Maria Dryer who had compassion on the “mui zhai” who were sold as house servants at a young age. That led her to start the first girls’ school in South East Asia in 1842. Sophia Cooke continued the ministry faithfully for over 42 years.

We ran eight trails for about 150 family participants. The trail opened doors for conversations with their children drawing from the many historical Christian buildings that holds stories of commitment and faithfulness of the early Christian workers.

If you are keen to learn more about our trails, you can follow us at: www.facebook.com/tapestrytrails

OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO:



Rev Sarah Ang Si'en on her ordination on 31 Oct 2021.



Sister Grace Ho Shoo Mei for her appointment as Jurong Christian Church (Chinese Section) parish worker in charge of the Mainland China Ministry and Christian Education on 7 June 2021.



Rev Lim Kim Hock's son Lim Cheng Kai married to Victoria Tay on 27 Nov 2021.



Rev Dr Samuel Wang's daughter Sarah Wang married to Jared Lee on 15 January 2022.



Deacon Nathan Lim, a Chinese from Indonesia, who worked as a missionary in Cambodia for 15 years among the Chinese nationals there, is now appointed as a parish worker looking after the Dialect Ministry in Jurong Christian Church (English Section) from 24 Nov 2021.



Rev Eric Chan Chee Keong for being nominated by St Luke's Hospital as a nominee for the 2021 President's Volunteerism & Philanthropy Awards (PVPA) and he is given a Certificate of Appreciation for faithfully volunteering at the hospital since 2006, once a week for the last 15 years as a volunteer Associate Chaplain, bringing both members of English and Chinese section of the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer to give-back to society, putting their faith into action.



Sister Helena Foong Siew Shia joined QLC as a Ministry Assistant in Oct 2010, supporting both the English and Chinese Sections. As of 1 Jan 2022, she will be a Parish Worker of Queenstown Lutheran Church (Chinese Section).



Rev Martin Yee's daughter Sabrina on the birth of her daughter Sylvie Khoo, born on 22 Nov 2021.

OUR CONDOLENCES TO:

We offer our condolences to Rev Lim Kim Hock's brother **Lim Kim Leng, Michael** slept in the Lord on 20 Sept 2021 and sister **Lim Kim Lai** slept in the Lord on 30 Dec 2021.

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