

SOLID ROCK

Surely

GOODNESS
& MERCY

SHALL FOLLOW
ME ALL
THE

DAYS OF MY
LIFE

and I will dwell in the

HOUSE OF THE LORD

FOREVER

PSALM 23:6

For if by the
 ONE MAN'S OFFENSE
 DEATH REIGNED THROUGH
 THE ONE
 much
 more THOSE WHO RECEIVE
 ABUNDANCE
 of *grace* AND OF THE GIFT OF
 RIGHTEOUSNESS...
 WILL REIGN IN
 LIFE through
 Jesus Christ
 THE ONE
 ROMANS 5:17

CHRIST HAS
 REDEEMED US
 from the curse of the law
 having become
 A CURSE FOR US
 FOR IT IS WRITTEN
 "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"
 THAT THE
 BLESSING OF ABRAHAM
 Might come upon
 THE GENTILES IN
 CHRIST JESUS
 THAT WE MIGHT RECEIVE THE
 PROMISE OF THE SPIRIT
 THROUGH FAITH
 Galatians
 3:13-14

GOD
 TO THEM WILLED TO
 MAKE KNOWN
 WHAT ARE THE
 Riches of the Glory
 OF THIS MYSTERY
 Among The
 Gentiles:
 WHICH IS
 CHRIST IN YOU
 THE HOPE OF GLORY
 Colossians 1:27

Surely
 GOODNESS
 & MERCY
 SHALL FOLLOW
 ME ALL
 THE
 DAYS OF MY
 LIFE
 and I will dwell in the
 HOUSE OF THE LORD
 FOREVER
 PSALM 23:6

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD;
I SHALL NOT WANT.

HE MAKES ME TO LIE DOWN IN GREEN PASTURES;
HE LEADS ME BESIDE THE STILL WATERS.

HE RESTORES MY SOUL;
HE LEADS ME IN THE PATHS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS
FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE.

YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY
OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL;
FOR YOU ARE WITH ME;
YOUR ROD AND YOUR STAFF, THEY COMFORT ME.

YOU PREPARE A TABLE BEFORE ME
IN THE PRESENCE OF MY ENEMIES;
YOU ANOINT MY HEAD WITH OIL;
MY CUP RUNS OVER.

SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY SHALL FOLLOW ME
ALL THE DAYS OF MY LIFE;
AND I WILL DWELL IN THE HOUSE
OF THE LORD FOREVER.

SOLID ROCK

SOLID ROCK welcomes your feedback.
Please send all correspondence to
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LETTER FROM THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

“For You meet him with
the blessings of goodness;
You set a crown of pure gold
upon his head.”

Psalm 21:3

As we look back on 2014, the year of greater glory, we see the goodness of God manifested in this house, and how God has taken this church from glory to glory.

Some 30 years ago, a group of young adults started holding meetings in a cosy flat in Holland Drive. None of them would have thought that they would now be part of a 31,000-strong church that worships in several venues across Singapore, including a world-class landmark.

The Lord Himself has answered exceedingly abundantly above all that they could ask or think. (Ephesians 3:20) And here we are today, standing near the end of yet another glorious year. We have much to be thankful for.

In September, our church introduced a slew of initiatives to make our ever-growing church feel small and cosy like home. They are part of our continuing endeavours to care for and connect with the people in our church, our home. Read more in *Hei, We're Family* (pg 8) and *Made To Connect*. (pg 18)

We also celebrate Rock Kidz, our children's ministry, and see His glory in *Greater Glory At Rock Kidz*. (pg 36) We marvel at the phenomenal growth that this ministry has been experiencing from its humble beginnings when it started out with 15 children, decades ago.

We've certainly come a long way as a church. And this is only possible because of Jesus' ever abundant supply of grace towards us. Read how you too can expect to receive wave upon wave of His grace in *Grace Like Waves*. (pg 26)

Beloved, as you reflect on this year of greater glory and celebrate the reason for the season this Christmas, take time to ponder on the One who came down to dwell among us. And how because of His perfect sacrifice, we have every reason to fully enjoy the blessings of His goodness.

THE SOLID ROCK TEAM

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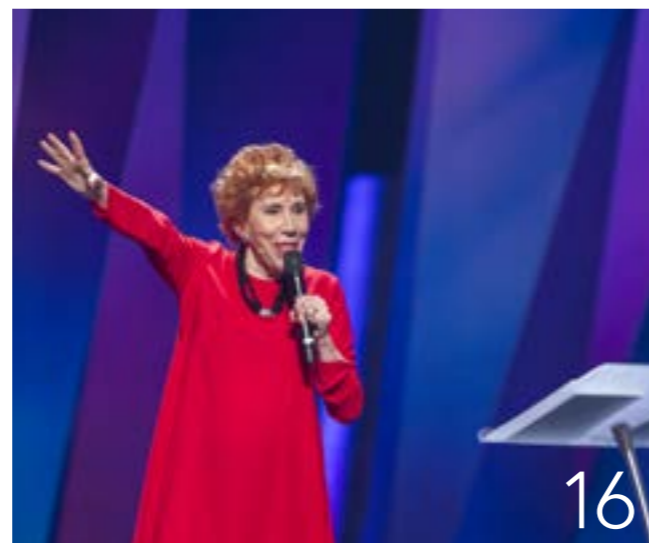
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THE HOPE OF GLORY
Colossians 1:27

engage

CHURCH LIFE
FROM THE HEART
TEN MINUTES WITH
FEATURE



FUN AND EXCITEMENT AT OUR GAME STATION.



services with dr marilyn hickey

On 5 and 8 October 2014, anointed preacher and evangelist Dr Marilyn Hickey preached faith-filled messages at our Sunday English services and midweek service.

At the services on Sunday, Dr Marilyn shared a powerful sermon on seeing Jesus in the Scriptures and encouraged the congregation to discover for themselves, how they can be transformed from glory to glory. And during the midweek service, Dr Marilyn cited Joshua's life and preached about how meditating on God's Word leads to good success in every area of our lives.

Read more about Dr Marilyn on [pg 16](#).

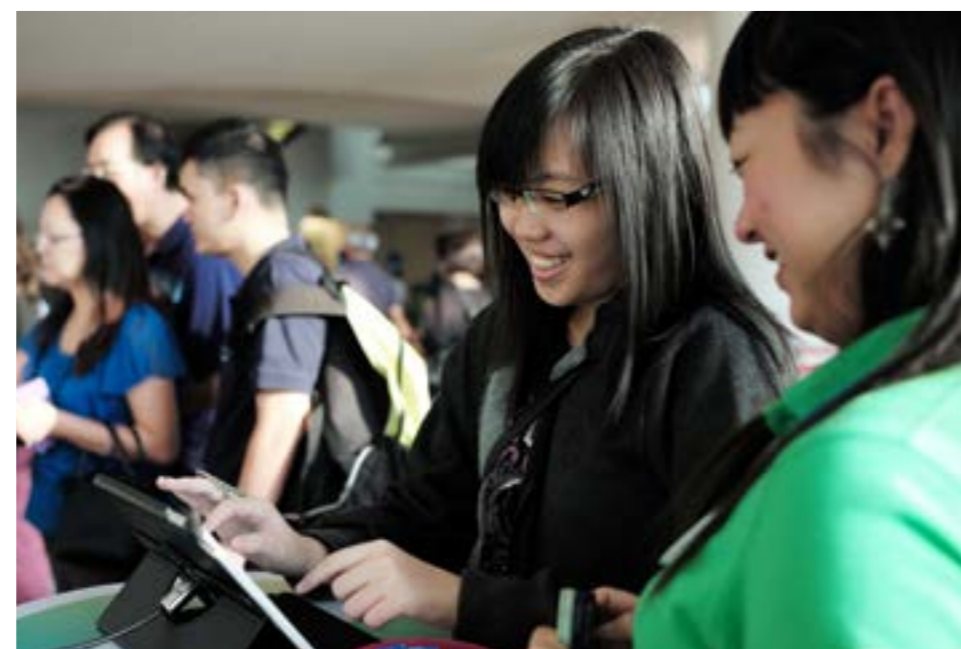


"hei, we're family"

On Sunday, 21 September 2014, numerous initiatives were launched at all our service venues to facilitate connection with and among our church members. (read more on [pg 18](#)) A popular activity was our game stations at The Star Performing Arts Centre and Marina Bay Sands venues.

Churchgoers also shared their hopes, struggles or praise reports at our Connect Points using the prayer requests and testimony slips. Many were seen having hearty conversations with our pastors and leaders over a cup of coffee.

"I had a great time," said our church member Veronica Tan. "I won a tote bag and spoke with an ambassador who helped me sign up to join a ministry. I truly feel cared for and loved. Thank you, church!"



REIGN IN LIFE

On Sunday, 26 October 2014, Senior Pastor Joseph Prince's new book, *Reign In Life*, was made available to our church members. Containing 90 daily inspirations, the book helps readers experience victory, success and breakthroughs in every area of their lives through the finished work of Christ. The book also comes peppered with many stories of people who have been impacted by the grace of God and whose lives have been transformed.



cambodia medical mission

Between 4 and 9 May 2014, 32 volunteers from New Creation Church's Outreach ministry set up a temporary clinic in Kampong Thom Province, Cambodia and provided free medical treatment to the poor.

Among them was Dr Raymond Lim who had an opportunity to witness God's healing power on one of the villagers, Leng Hongly.

"His thumb was severed a week before we arrived," shared Dr Lim. "It was left untreated but surprisingly, the wound remained clean and uninfected. We were able to stitch up his hand."

Leng Hongly not only got his thumb back, he returned to the clinic with his entire family on the last day of the clinic's operation, and they received Christ.

As news spread among the villagers, more locals visited the clinic, and some even called it the "Jesus Clinic". More than 2,300 people were treated by our team of volunteers, and 217 souls were saved.

Ly Huy, National Director of One-2-One Cambodia, a non-governmental organisation dedicated to improving the lives of the vulnerable and destitute in Cambodia, said, "This is truly a miracle. I was initially worried about the number of people who would turn up because not many of the villagers knew we were coming. But we exceeded our target of 2,000 patients."



under the sea with rock kidz

In October 2014, Rock Kidz, our children's ministry, held a special month-long celebration for our children. Themed "Undersea Adventure", the children were treated to a host of special programmes and lessons.

The festivities kicked off with a carnival atmosphere on Sunday, 5 October 2014. Mascots were seen mingling with the children and photo booths abuzz with picture-taking parents at The Star Performing Arts Centre and Marina Bay Sands ballrooms.

"My children are indeed blessed to be a part of this ministry that obviously cares for them," shared Mrs Yang, a mother of two. "Just looking at the decorations, gifts and the things that my daughter says she learns in class, I know much thought has gone into the planning to make the children feel special. Wow."



bringing relief to tacloban

In November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan swept across Tacloban in the Philippines. It left behind a trail of destruction, with thousands killed and countless homes destroyed.

Volunteers from New Creation Church's (NCC) Outreach ministry headed to Tacloban in March 2014 to bring much-needed humanitarian relief to more than 2,000 children. The team, led by Pastor Lawrence Lim, also helped pack rice to bless displaced families staying in a refugee camp, and joined the Korean military to deliver food and milk to three local schools.

A team of 20 NCC Outreach ministry volunteers returned to Tacloban in August 2014. This time, they prepared food and distributed meals to approximately 2,000 elementary school children.

"I am very thankful for this feeding programme that has helped the children of this school a lot," shared Cora, a teacher at the elementary school. "The parents are also thankful for your generosity."

In addition, the Outreach team packed about 700 bags of food supplies and distributed them to families that were being housed at two temporary shelters. At the same time, they shared about Jesus with the families.

Marinel, a housewife at one of the shelters said, "Now that I have Jesus, I am very happy. I know that Jesus will never leave me and I pray that God will give us a comfortable home soon."



this is our father's house

There is a pool of Royal Service Ministry (RSM) volunteers who prepare the church for service every Sunday. The ministry consists of four departments.

The Support team functions somewhat like undercover operators and they are usually the first team in and last team out. Among many other things, they tag the seats, put up posters and signages, and ensure our service venues are ready to welcome our church members.

The Medical team looks after the accident and emergency needs of the congregation, and the Hearing Hearts team ministers to the needs of the hearing impaired.

The most visible volunteers come from the Usher team. They carefully anticipate the congregational needs for each service from entry to exit. They then greet, direct human traffic, dispense the communion elements and source for the best available seats while keeping cool and calm in the midst of swelling crowds and tight service times.

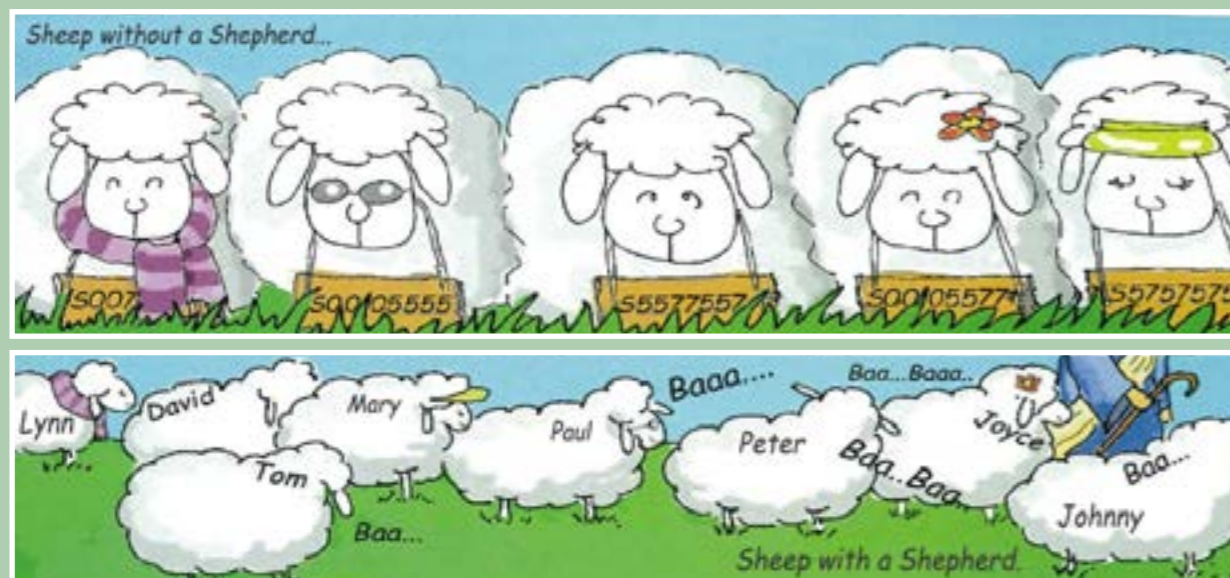
It is truly a labour of love for these weekend warriors!

To keep the about 1,300 RSM volunteers focused, RSM Ministry Leader, Pastor K E Mathews, encourages the servers to see themselves as stewards in their Father's house and to serve as hosts, giving each visitor to church a warm, welcoming and "wow" experience. Each steward is reminded that their contributions are significant when they first see themselves as playing a significant role in the house. Naturally, happy stewards make for happy visitors and congregation members.

Pastor Mathews also shared some tips on how congregation members can encourage our volunteer stewards:

1. **Say hello and smile.** Your response is the warmest gesture of love they would feel and makes their time spent in the Father's house most worthwhile.
2. **Thank you.** These two words are so nice to hear and makes for the simplest gesture of appreciation for a seat found in the Father's house.
3. **Remind them that they are forgiven.** It conveys empathy for possible shortcomings and makes our stewards want to improve and serve again the following week.

The Lamb Post



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Planted In His House

"... I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you..."
Hebrews 13:5, The Message

PASTOR EDWIN LIM

I started attending New Creation Church (NCC) 16 years ago with my wife. When I first heard Pastor Prince's sermon, I was blown away by what he shared about our Daddy God and how He loves us unconditionally. Having been a believer since I was seven, I wondered how I had missed this wonderful truth all those years.

The Bible tells us that our Lord Jesus loves us with an everlasting love, He is always with us, He will never leave us nor forsake us. It is so reassuring to read The Message translation of Hebrews 13:5, which says, "... I'll never let you down, never walk off and leave you..."

When we are conscious that Jesus is with us and for us, we can be sure that He is there to help us and walk us through every challenge in our lives. The Lord has also blessed us in being part of this church family in NCC, where we feel a strong sense of belonging, knowing that there are brothers- and sisters-in-Christ who love and care for us, and who will be with us at any point of our need.

I have been privileged to be part of this church family very early on, having served in what was known as the Tape Ministry (this was when Pastor Prince's sermons were available on cassette tapes) and the Ushering Ministry (much like our Royal Service Ministry today).

Then I joined the bereavement support team where I was so blessed to witness first-hand how families in bereavement experienced the shalom peace of God in their hearts, knowing they have an everlasting hope in Christ. After that, I spent some time as a care group leader and in 2010, I joined Rock Kidz, the children's ministry, and taught Bible lessons to our children.

"In my walk with Jesus, I have learnt that I can always depend on His more-than-enough supply."

The years that I have spent in ministry work, plugged into church life, have planted me in a place to see Jesus and His unconditional love manifest in the lives of our people, in big and small ways. The Lord we serve is indeed One who is with us always, even to the end of time. (Matthew 28:20)

In my walk with Jesus, I have learnt that I can always depend on His more-than-enough supply. And I know that because He is the One who has placed me where I am now, He will be the One who will supply me with all I need. And much more.

Reverend Col And Jan Stringer Share Their NCC Experience

Reverend Col and Jan Stringer were in town in July 2014. Here, they share their experience from their annual pastors trip.



G'day partners and friends,

Jan and I have just returned from our annual pastors trip to New Creation Church, Singapore. This makes over 200 pastors, leaders and their spouses from Australia and New Zealand that we have taken to attend the Sunday service (31,000 people attend the church on average). After that, we were truly blessed to have a time of personal teaching and fellowship with Pastor Joseph Prince, his wonderful wife Wendy and his awesome staff.

I can truthfully state that we have not taken one minister or leader whose life has not been changed dramatically by attending one of these trips (including Jan and myself), and I cannot speak highly enough of Pastor Prince for his love, generosity and impartation into all of our lives. I truly believe that grace is the next "move" or "message" that the Holy Spirit is using to touch His people, and I know I am not alone in that belief.

Some have spoken about such things as "hyper grace" or the misuse or misunderstanding of grace, but I have

found this is usually presented by people who have not had a true revelation of grace for themselves, but just accepted grace as a doctrine.

No one is trying to brainwash or "ram grace down people's throat", as some make accusations. I, for one, am simply testifying as to what has happened in Jan and my life (and many others). How can you argue doctrine against a person who has had a genuine experience with the Lord and their lives dramatically changed forever?

Many ministers/leaders have broken down and cried in these meetings [as they were touched by God]; some have told me personally they were ready to quit the ministry, indeed had, before the meetings, made up their minds that they were going to do so! One pastor told me he had seriously contemplated suicide. Many have told of the change in their marriages, families, churches and ministry... Most have described how a revelation of true grace has set them free from the constant striving, performing and trying to make things happen using their own strength and abilities!



REVEREND COL STRINGER (STANDING, SIXTH FROM THE LEFT), JAN STRINGER (SEATED, FIFTH FROM THE LEFT) AND THE PASTORS GROUP, TOGETHER WITH PASTOR JOSEPH PRINCE (STANDING, EXTREME LEFT).

And I am talking about senior pastors who have been in ministry for many years. Many come from varying backgrounds.

"Most have described how a revelation of true grace has set them free from the constant striving, performing and trying to make things happen using their own strength and abilities!"

One young pastor – who had previously taken a strong stance against the "grace message" (it's not a message, but a person – Jesus), in fact he had even been studying with Jewish rabbis for years – was sitting in his church when he had a visitation from the Lord. He told me how the heavens had opened up and a huge, shining cross appeared before him and how he

heard a voice call him by name and tell him, "Pastor... you have been living in the old covenant and now it's time to move into the new covenant!"

Pastor Mark Elmendorp, Senior Pastor of Albany Hills Christian Church in Brisbane, wrote, "The last two days of my trip... I spent them at New Creation Church, Singapore pastored by Joseph Prince, one of the true generals of the faith in the world today. It's a rich church in every way, from the building it meets in, to the country it's located in, to the people who attend, to the excellence of Pastor Prince's preaching. I listened on that particular Sunday morning to Pastor Prince speak for one hour 15 minutes in a Bible college master class. It is said of New Creation Church that its congregation is the most biblically literate congregation on earth. From these two positions, I saw something interesting. God loves the poor and the rich. He doesn't look at these things. He looks at the heart of a man."

You are greatly blessed, highly favoured and deeply loved!

HOW IT ALL STARTED



When I was younger, I had a desire to reach out to the lost and the Lord said, "If you want to reach the lost, you'll have to go where they are. They're not going to come to you." So God opened the door for me to have home Bible study groups. I would go into homes with a cup of coffee and a cookie, and teach the Bible to women.



WHO SHE WATCHES ON TV



I watch Pastor Prince on television back home, all the time. I tell my office that I will not be coming in to the office until Pastor Prince's programme is done.



DR MARILYN HICKEY

Dr Marilyn Hickey's ministry has seen her travel to over 120 countries and her television programme, *Today With Marilyn And Sarah*, is broadcast to nearly 200 countries and 3 billion households daily. SOLID ROCK had a chat with her and got some insights into her ministry and life.

WELCOME BACK TO NEW CREATION CHURCH (NCC)! HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE CHANGES SINCE YOU LAST VISITED AT THE ROCK AUDITORIUM IN 1999?

I just feel overwhelmed. I don't think that in the West, we really think much about what God is doing in Asia, especially in Singapore. Seeing how NCC has grown from 3,000 in 1999 to 31,000 today? You don't hear of growth like that. It's definitely Jesus, it's definitely grace.

HOW DID YOU MEET PASTOR JOSEPH PRINCE?

I first met Pastor Prince at a restaurant in a hotel. I was dining with a couple who introduced me to Pastor Prince and his wife Wendy. Pastor Prince and I had an instant connection and we started talking about the Bible. And that's what we've been talking about ever since! (Laughs)

IN YOUR OPINION, WHAT'S THE MOST IMPACTFUL THING ABOUT PASTOR PRINCE'S MINISTRY?

I see that he brings a revelation of Jesus and who He is into the lives of people. He always whets my appetite to learn more about Jesus, and that's just awesome.

YOU WEAR MANY HATS — PASTOR, MINISTER, WIFE, MOTHER AND GRANDMOTHER. HOW DO YOU FIND A BALANCE IN THESE VARIED ROLES?

God took me through a process of growth. My late husband, Wallace, was so in favour of what I was doing and he was the one who always supported and encouraged me. When my children were younger, I didn't really travel. I prioritised my family before ministry. As the children grew older and went to college, Wallace encouraged me and gave me the freedom to travel to the nations. And even when I was travelling, I was rarely away for more than seven to eight days a month. If Wallace ever said to me that I can't travel, I wouldn't have done so. I think that there's a divine order to things, and a happy marriage and happy children are important and precious to me.

WHICH IS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK IN THE BIBLE AND WHY?

My husband used to say, "Her favourite book in the Bible is the one she's reading now." (Laughs) I like the Gospel of John the best because it reveals Jesus through the "I am's" and how the Word was made flesh.

WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO DO IN YOUR FREE TIME?

I like to read a lot and I take a lot of books with me when I am on the road. I like reading about history, and I love mystery novels.

WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE FOOD?

I love all foods and I am not sure if there's any food I don't like. I particularly love Chinese food and when I travel to China, that's all I eat.



MADE TO CONNECT

Church is more than a building or attending a service every Sunday. Church is where connection and community happen. DAWN HU and GERALD WEE report on the launch of new initiatives through which our church continues to care for, connect with and celebrate you.





The word “church” often evokes resplendent images of Westminster Abbey in London, St Peter’s Basilica in Rome, or Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem. But as magnificent as these buildings are, church is not about buildings, or just about the services that it holds.

At the beginning of 2014, Senior Pastor Joseph Prince shared how the church is Christ’s greatest glory. The church is where the fullness of His wisdom, blessings and hope are found. Our church members were encouraged to actively get involved in church activities and each other’s lives.

Church life happens when people find meaningful connections in church. When friendships are made and fellowship happens, people are cared for and celebrated. And they feel like church is home.

Acts 2 provides a beautiful snapshot of what church life in the early days of Christianity looked like. According to Acts, there was a community of believers who gathered regularly to fellowship, partake of the Holy Communion, pray

and worship. (Acts 2:42–43, 46–47)

Ultimately, believers are not called to live life on their own. “Church is more than attending service on Sunday,” explained Pastor Joash Siow, who oversees our care groups in the northeast parts of Singapore. “Church life starts when we become part of the church community.”

“By being a part of the church community, be it serving in a ministry or attending a care group, you are able to build one another up, and share your life experiences in an environment where you feel safe and cared for,” Pastor Joash concluded.

To connect even more with the people, and to encourage interactions and kingdom friendships, the church introduced new initiatives across the service venues on Sunday, 21 September 2014. (pg 8)

There are now new spaces and platforms for church members to connect and be cared for by the pastors, leaders and ambassadors. Here, we explore these exciting new initiatives.

CONNECT POINTS

Our pastors, leaders and ambassadors are stationed at Connect Points across all the service venues to befriend and help churchgoers. After services, you can see our leaders praying with church members, people finding out how to join a care group or serve in a ministry, or simply having a chat over a cup of coffee or tea.

Connect Point locations:

The Star Performing Arts Centre (The Star PAC)	Levels 5 & 7*
Marina Bay Sands	Outside the ballrooms
Cinema venues	Please approach our ambassadors (in green polo shirts) for directions.

*The Connect Point at Level 7 is available till 5.30pm.



NCC RESOURCE

If you are looking for Christ-centred books, CDs or other resources, you can find them at NCC Resource at all our service venues.

NCC Resource locations:

The Star PAC	Level 5
Marina Bay Sands	Outside the ballrooms
Cinema venues	Front of the hall

NCC LIVE

NCC Live is a space where you can hang out and participate in activities organised by our ministries. Available at The Star PAC and Marina Bay Sands venues, these spaces were abuzz with activities on 21 and 28 September 2014.

Our “Wheel Of Blessings” and “Catch A Blessing” game stations were a hit with our church members. They walked away with prizes like plush toys, gift vouchers and books.

NCC Live locations:

The Star PAC	Level 5
Marina Bay Sands	Outside the ballrooms

NOAH – OUR ONLINE CHURCH LIFE SYSTEM

NOAH is our online church life system that helps the church better connect with you. During the launch of our church life initiatives, we encouraged churchgoers to sign up for a NOAH account or update their existing accounts.

Through NOAH, you will be kept abreast of the latest happenings in church, and can sign up for church events, register your kids for classes in our children’s ministry Rock Kidz, share a testimony, as well as book seats for services at The Star PAC.

To create or update your NOAH account, log in at noah.newcreation.org.sg



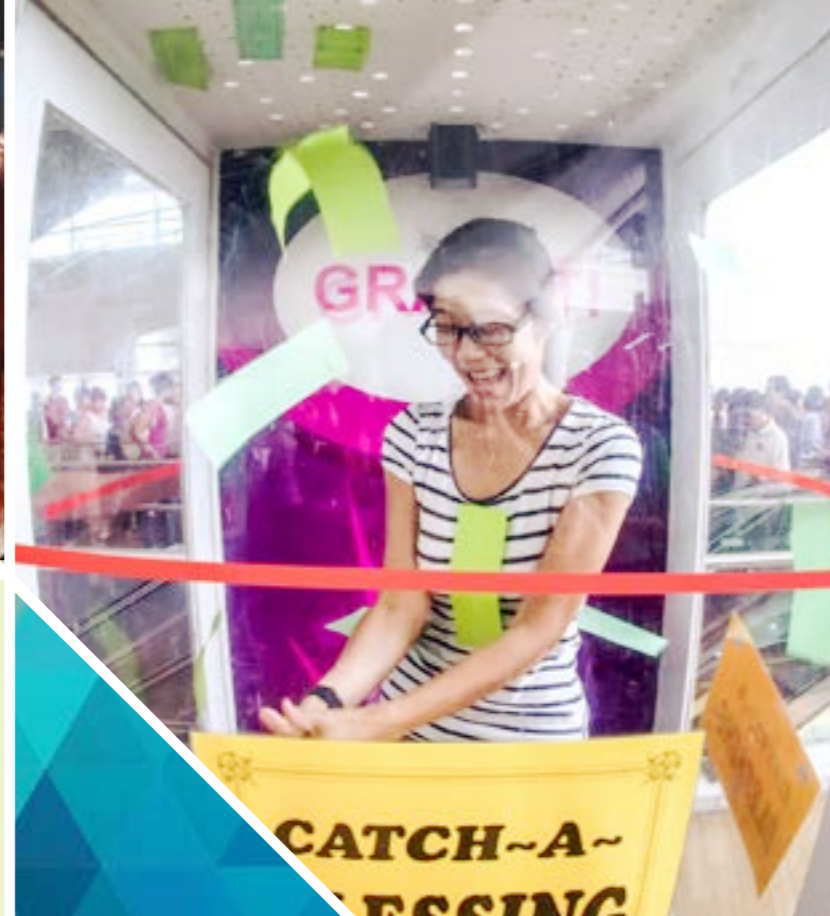
PRAYER REQUEST AND TESTIMONY SLIPS

As a church, we want to stand in faith with you in your challenges, and celebrate breakthroughs with you. If you have a prayer request, you can pick up a prayer request and testimony slip at our Connect Points, and pen down your requests. And if you have an edifying praise report to share, you can also write down your testimony on that slip.

You may drop your completed slips into the boxes at our Connect Points. We will go through every slip, pray over the prayer requests, and stand in faith with you for your breakthrough.

NCC INFO CARDS

The NCC Info Cards provide details on our English service timings and main venues, and are readily available at the Connect Points across all our service venues. Impact a life for God and use these cards to invite friends and loved ones to church.



CHURCH LIFE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

After services on Sundays, you can continue to plug in and stay connected to what's happening in church through our vibrant online community.

Besides our website, our church family has an active online presence via our Facebook page and Instagram account. Read up on events that are happening in church and be encouraged by posts that remind you to look to Christ, the author and finisher of our faith. (Hebrews 12:2) Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/nccsg) and follow us on Instagram (@nccsg). We have a YouTube account where you can view videos of some of our events and activities too (www.youtube.com/newcreationchurch).

There is also our New Creation Church app, which combines highlights from our website and social media platforms. You can download it on both the App Store and Google Play.

AMBASSADORS FOR CHRIST

You may have noticed some folks in green polo shirts at our service venues. They are our friendly ambassadors who volunteer their time to reach out to other church members and get to know them better.

If you spot them in church, do approach them and say hi. They are ready to help you in any way possible. Read more about them in our box story. (pg 23)



WHAT'S AN AMBASSADOR?

Meet Kathleen Yip, a medical doctor, who serves as a care group leader and ambassador. She shares what life is like as an ambassador.

HI KATHLEEN! SO TELL US, WHAT DO AMBASSADORS DO?

We greet our congregation, get to know them and just be there for them. As the church grows and new individuals join the congregation, we engage them to make our big church feel like home. As ambassadors of Christ, we want to extend a personal touch to our people, to let them know they are precious to us and to the Lord.

HOW DO AMBASSADORS HELP OUR CONGREGATION?

Ambassadors are able to assist with any questions regarding the church and help our church members sign up for church events like water baptisms and seminars. They also handle lost and found enquiries. They welcome visitors and new believers, and make them feel at home. Ambassadors are also present at all English service venues to get to know our congregation or stand in faith with them if they have a prayer need.

SHARE WITH US A MEMORABLE INCIDENT WHILE YOU WERE SERVING.

Every Sunday, we come into contact with many overseas visitors who fly in from all continents just to attend a service at The Star PAC. I remember a young man who uprooted himself from Austria and moved to Singapore because he wanted to be an active member of New Creation Church. The encounter gave me an invaluable perspective on our church's impact worldwide, and I feel grateful that I am given the opportunity to play a part in building church life.



REDEEMED US

from the curse of the law

having become

A CURSE FOR US

FOR IT IS WRITTEN

"Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"

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THROUGH FAITH

Galatians
3: 13-14

edify

HIS WORD
FEATURE
PRAISE REPORTS
UPLIFTED



GRACE

LIKE

WAVES

“Out of the vast ocean of His grace, wave upon wave of the provision you need are headed your way.”



Imagine for a moment that you are standing on a sandy beach and watching the waves of the ocean roll inexorably, one after another, to shore. Picture them picking up speed as they surge towards the shoreline, then cresting, curling, and collapsing into white froth upon the sand. As one wave breaks and falls, another is close behind, rushing in to take its place even before the first has fully receded. Close your eyes and picture the waves coming in – rising, breaking, and claiming the shore. It’s a ceaseless cycle, one wave close on the heels of another, fuelled by the wind stirring up the water of an endless ocean.

Everyone loves the sight and sound of waves lapping against the seashore. There is something about watching and hearing the waves washing over the shore again and again that brings a sense of serenity and relaxation. You can even buy phone apps now that give you this familiar, soothing sound to help you rest and unwind. Interestingly, not too long ago, this very picture of wave after wave rushing to shore was what I received from the Lord as I was studying a particular scripture about His grace:

And of His fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. (John 1:16)

GRACE FOR GRACE

In the above scripture, Apostle John is talking about Jesus, who is full of grace and truth (John 1:14), and from whom we have received “grace for grace”. What does John mean by us receiving His “grace for grace”? When I looked up the word “for” in the original Greek text, I found that it is the Greek word *anti*, from which we get our English word “anti”. Interestingly, apart from “anti” meaning “against” or “opposed to” (where we have

words such as “anti-Christ” and “antivirus”), I found out from *Thayer’s Greek Lexicon* that *anti* also means “instead of” or “in place of”. (The anti-Christ is thus so named because he is a person trying to imitate or take the place of Christ.)

Right there, the Lord opened up this verse, particularly the phrase “grace for grace”, to me: “Grace *anti* grace” really means *grace in place of grace*. That’s when I received the inner vision of the waves from the Lord. I saw how His grace comes into our lives in the same way waves roll over the seashore – one wave of grace inexorably taking the place of the one that went before it.

Isn’t this so true of how God has worked in our lives? The first wave of grace came in and we were gloriously saved. We thought that was all there was. But when we needed wisdom at one point, or provision or healing further down the road, wave upon wave of God’s grace came in, bringing His supply to more than meet our need, time and again. My friend, I want to encourage you with this thought today: We can expect grace in place of grace – wave upon wave of God’s amazing and glorious grace – for the rest of our lives! Out of the vast ocean of His grace, wave upon wave of the provision you need are headed your way. Hallelujah!

Did we do something to deserve God’s relentless and unfailing grace? Certainly not! It’s all because our Lord Jesus went to the cross more than 2,000 years ago to pay the full price for our sins. Wave upon wave of God’s fiery judgment and righteous indignation fell upon the body of our substitute, until every iota of our sins was punished. And when Jesus cried out, “It is finished!” (John 19:30), it tore the veil separating us from a holy God, and a flood tide of God’s grace and blessings was unleashed upon us! Praise Jesus!

“Expect good things to happen to you because Jesus’ blood has qualified you.”

FEAR OF FLYING REPLACED BY GOD’S PEACE

Do you need another wave of God’s grace today? Allow me to share Melanie’s testimony with you to encourage you. Writing to my ministry from Los Angeles, she shared with me how terrified she was of flying. She could never relax or enjoy herself at any airport while waiting for her flight, never mind the flight itself. In her state of anxiety and fear, she would find herself making multiple trips to the bathroom, both in the airport and throughout the flight on the plane.

Not long ago, Melanie was with her family at an airport in Houston, Texas. While waiting for their flight to Las Vegas, her husband and children were having a wonderful time in the food court, joking, laughing, and playing – all in high spirits for their family vacation. In stark contrast, Melanie simply sat there by herself, unable to relax, dwelling on and dreading the three-hour flight. The more she thought about the flight – being stuck for hours in a confined space more than 30,000 feet in the air – the more anxious and fearful she became. What a miserable state to be in, especially when you are on holiday with your loved ones!

As the knot of fear grew in the pit of her stomach, an email came through on her mobile phone – the first wave of God’s grace. It was one of my daily devotionals in which I shared about a woman I had met on a plane. Like Melanie, this woman also had a fear of flying and was gripping the armrests of her seat tightly as the plane was in the air. Melanie read about how the Lord ministered to this woman and how she experienced His grace on that flight. How timely this devotional was for Melanie. It spoke volumes to her about God’s personal love for her and brought in a peace that began to dispel the fears in her heart. She said:

The more I saw God’s love through the devotional, the more I felt the power of God calming my heart. Tears rolled down my face right there in the food court. I quietly wiped them away and received His grace and righteousness in exchange for all my fears. That day, I experienced one of the most glorious flights in my life. I did not go to the bathroom once (compared to the numerous times I had to on previous flights). Throughout the whole flight, I was filled with such great peace and calm, and was able to share with my family the joy and excitement of our vacation. The Lord had met my need right where I was.

For someone with an entrenched phobia of flying, I would say that this was certainly a miraculous breakthrough!

BELIEVE AND RECEIVE

God knows exactly what you need, wherever you are. Perhaps you are sitting outside your doctor’s office, terrified of what the test results might reveal. *How bad is my condition? How am I going to afford the treatment? Will it even work?* Maybe you are waiting outside the interview room, afraid that you will be turned down for the umpteenth time in favour of someone younger. *How am I going to pay the utility bills and my kids’ school fees without a job?* Worrying thoughts race through your mind and paint a bleak future in your mind’s eye.

My friend, close your eyes for a moment and picture the vision of the waves that I described earlier. Tell yourself, “That’s how God’s grace is coming into my situation, into my life, right now – one wave in place of another without fail,

driven by the force of His love and grace for me.” Now, hold that thought and pray this simple prayer with me:

Dear heavenly Father, You know the situation I am in. I may not be able to see it now, but I thank You that because of Jesus’ sacrifice for me, wave after wave of Your glorious grace is rushing into my life to meet every need and oversupply every lack. I turn my situation over to You completely, knowing that You love and care for me perfectly. I receive Your abundant grace right now and I thank You for every incoming wave of supply, healing, and protection in Jesus’ name, Amen.

Now that you have prayed this prayer, let your heart be at rest. Refuse to worry anymore. Keep seeing the Lord’s grace coming into your situation, wave upon wave, and keep thanking Him for it. Your Saviour is so full of grace He will never tell you, “I’ve run out of supply.” Neither will He ever condemn you for your mistakes and refuse to help you. Instead of expecting more bad things to happen to you, begin to expect good things to happen to you because Jesus’ blood has qualified you for every blessing.

DON’T FRUSTRATE HIS GRACE

Pastor Prince, I’ve not seen this wave upon wave of grace you’ve been talking about!

My friend, because of the cross, God’s supply of grace is ever flowing towards you, His beloved child. But you cut off the flow when you trust in your self-efforts. You wind up in self-effort every time you worry, for example,

because when you worry, you are essentially saying, “I’m depending on me to solve this problem. It’s solely up to me and my ability to get the job done.” Some believers end up in self-effort when they try to deserve God’s blessings through their works. They say, “God, I’ve fasted, prayed, read my Bible, faithfully attended church... now You ought to give me my breakthrough.” This, unfortunately, is self-effort born out of self-righteousness, which does nothing but frustrate God’s grace. (Galatians 2:16, 21)

Beloved, His grace is all about supply. The law (or trusting self-effort) is all about demand. So when you think that God demands something from you – whether it is “responsible” worrying or good works – before He will bless you, then you have placed yourself under the law. And when you place yourself under the law, you will end up frustrating His grace.

So stop trying to solve the situation in your own strength. Cease trying to deserve His blessings with your sacrifices. God wants you to see how everything has been accomplished for you by Christ at the cross. All you have to do is simply receive His free supply of grace, wave after wave, for every need, lack, and crisis you face. You give your Father in heaven tremendous satisfaction when you respond to His love by freely receiving from Him like a child what Jesus has already paid for you to have!

LIVING IN A WORLD OF DEMANDS

We live in a world of demands. Demands to provide for our families. Demands to live up to peoples’

expectations. Demands to hand in reports and assignments on time and do a good job of them. Your boss may have just told you, "I want you to present our new product in front of 200 people next week. Don't let me down." And you are thinking, "I can't even talk to 10 people without my knees going weak!"

Maybe for you it's a family situation. Your wife needs more money for the groceries. Your kids are saying you don't spend enough time with them. Many of these demands are legitimate, but if you don't watch it and remind yourself to be supply minded, you can be crushed under the weight of it all.

Let me encourage you to wake up every morning being supply oriented rather than demand oriented. See the lavish supply pouring forth from your Father's throne. See the provision of His grace, wave upon wave, sweeping over your need. If you are having examinations or going for a job interview this week, see wave upon wave of His wisdom, peace, and favour engulfing your situation. See Him supplying every word you need and whatever ideas or opinions that are asked of you.

My friend, replace thoughts of worry and failure by believing that His grace is being supplied to you – wave upon wave – for every challenge and trial that comes your way. Believe that your Father in heaven has seen your need and that His grace is more than sufficient for every one of your needs every moment of the day.

FROM SHY TO BOLD GIRL

If a young girl from Florida can learn to be supply oriented, so can you. This precious girl was always very

shy and could not speak in public let alone sing, even though she has a beautiful voice. One day, she heard me sharing my testimony on television. I talked about how I used to be a stutterer in school, how the kids there loved to make fun of me, and how by God's grace and love, He turned that very area of weakness into an area of strength. I would never have believed then that God would use me to preach His amazing grace to millions around the world, and that I would enjoy doing it! This girl listened intently and believed that if God performed that miracle for me, He would do the same for her too.

Today, she sings in the youth band in church and is also an active member of her high school Christian fellowship. Listen to what her grandmother shared with me: "One day, they were praying for the school and our country. She got nervous when it was almost her turn to pray. At that moment, she remembered your testimony and felt the boldness to pray out loud what God had put on her heart. Later, the pastors who were present came to her and told her she had prayed a beautiful prayer. And just recently, she was chosen to sing the National Anthem before a volleyball game in the high school gym. She gave the situation to the Lord again and asked Jesus to help her. Her voice was so beautiful when she sang."

My friend, the demand put on you may not be to sing or speak in public. You may feel the demand to be a better parent, to improve on your skills at work, or better manage your finances. Like this young girl, be encouraged to know how God loves to flood your areas of weakness or challenge with His supply and go on to see this become a reality!

"Replace thoughts of worry by believing that His grace is being supplied to you – wave upon wave – for every challenge."



“When you believe right – that Jesus is a God of abundant grace – you will have the right results.”

GRACE THAT GIVES DESPITE OUR FAILURES

Pastor Prince, will God still send me wave after wave of His grace when I've failed Him over and over again?

That's the million-dollar question, isn't it? People wonder in their hearts, *Has God reached His limit with me? Could Jesus be so tired of my failures that He says, "You know what? I've given you so much grace and you still haven't learnt a thing. No more grace for you!"*

My friend, all you have to do is turn to the pages of the gospels and see for yourself what a kind and compassionate Saviour Jesus is. People constantly thronged Him, seeking Him out to teach them, answer their questions, heal them, cast demons out of them, and raise their loved ones from the dead. And against this background of meeting the demands and needs of imperfect people, we get a glimpse of the incredible, incomparable lovingkindness and compassion of Jesus in action.

He healed all who came to Him for healing regardless of how unclean they were and what mistakes they had made in their lives. He cast an evil spirit out of a young boy even when the boy's father admitted that he didn't have enough faith for his son to be delivered. (Mark 9:17-27) He saved His own disciples from being swallowed up by a mega storm even when He knew fear had turned their hearts from trusting in His love and supply for them. (Mark 4:35-41) This is our Jesus! He is so gracious He will never give up on you.

Once, when asked whose sin had caused a man to be born blind, Jesus showed where His heart lay when He ignored

the issue of whose sin it was, but went on to restore full sight to the blind man and manifest God's heart for the hurting. (John 9:1-7) At another time and place, He miraculously fed a multitude (with 12 baskets full of leftovers) that had come after Him even when there was not a single person with perfect behaviour in that crowd. (Mark 6:35-44)

Isn't that amazing? Read the book of Matthew and you will see that Jesus also faced rejection from the elders of Israel. He came to His own, but they flatly rejected Him. They even had the audacity to say that He cast out demons by the power of Beelzebub, the prince of demons. (Matthew 12:24) He faced rejection from the people of His hometown too. The folks there considered Him merely an ordinary, local guy – "Isn't this Joseph and Mary's kid?" – not as the Son of God, and took offence with what He was doing and saying. (Matthew 13:54-58)

Yet, despite all the rejection, accusations, and failures of the people, Jesus was always healing, supplying, delivering, and saving them. He is still the same today. His heart of compassion that made Him go to the cross to pay for your sins so that you can freely receive His blessings continues to beat for you today. No matter what you have done, our Lord Jesus is waiting to show you His grace. Your friends and loved ones may forsake you or write you off, but He will never do that. His grace towards you endures forever. Jesus is so *full* of grace as the apostle John tells us, and it is out of this fullness that He gives us grace in place of grace. (John 1:14, 16)

BELIEVE JESUS IS FULL OF GRACE

My friend, do you know what all this means? It means that even when you have turned away from Jesus in your anger and said things you shouldn't have said against Him, even when you have blamed Him for the tragedies in your life, He is still full of compassion and grace towards you! He is still willing to heal you, deliver you from any bondage or oppression, and provide bountifully for all your needs.

If you need healing today, don't say, "Oh, I've sinned away any grace for my healing. The days of God's grace towards me are over." That's wrong believing! Step into another wave of His grace by saying, "Lord, I thank You that by Your stripes I am healed! You alone have qualified me with Your blood for healing and I receive it. I expect to get better. Thank You." (Isaiah 53:5) If you look at your bank account and see the consequences of bad choices, don't say, "I've made bad investment decisions. It's all my fault. Why would God want to help me now?" No, tell Him, "Lord, thank You for wisdom in all my decision making. Thank You that despite my mistakes, You will still supply all my needs according to the riches of Your glory." (Philippians 4:19)

When you believe right – that Jesus is a God of abundant grace – you will have the right results. The Lord wants

you to believe right about Him – that He is so full of grace you can never out-sin His grace. Your failures, weaknesses, and bad decisions cannot exhaust His grace. But His grace – wave after wave – will swallow all that up as you see how much He still loves and cares about you. And if you will look to Him and say, "Lord, I cannot, but You can," you will see wave after wave of His wisdom entering your decision making and leading you to make good and timely decisions that will yield good fruit. You will see wave after wave of His favour and goodness protecting you and causing what you do to flourish.

Beloved, learn to enjoy every wave of God's grace every day. Enjoy each grace wave as it comes. Don't settle for just one. Be like surfers – they don't just ride one wave and finish with their face planted on the beach! After having the thrill of their lives on the first wave, they head for the second, and the third, and should they fall, they simply get onto their boards again and go for the next wave. They also know that the waves will keep coming – they don't have to try to make those waves happen. That's how you should face each day. Simply enjoy wave after wave of the Lord's grace coming relentlessly towards you. Don't try to merit His grace, just receive it. And if you do fall, just get up and ride the next wave. Remember, the Lord is *full* of grace and compassion towards you!

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Recommended CD messages:

- *Enjoy Wave After Wave Of God's Grace*, 6 October 2013
- *Receive God's Supply For All Of Life's Demands*, 13 October 2013

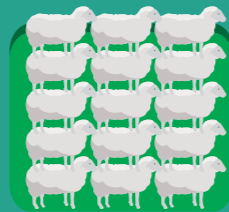
To obtain the CD messages, visit NCC Resource on service days, Rock Gifts & Book Centre (6694 3007, rgbc.com.sg) or www.josephprince.com to order and download the MP3 messages.

GREATER GLORY AT ROCK KIDZ

Three Decades Of Fruitfulness



2 pastors overseeing Rock Kidz, Pastor Lim Lian Neo, who has led the ministry for the past five years, and Pastor Edwin Lim.



15 children packed into a 4-room flat at Jurong West St 42 for Sunday service when our children's ministry started some 30 years ago.

83.7

per cent. That's the growth in attendance at Rock Kidz over the past five years.



Volunteers In Rock Kidz



17

nationalities of servers at Rock Kidz. God has sent them from China, Turkey, Mexico, Indonesia, Australia, Germany, India, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Dominican Republic, Malaysia, the United States of America, Japan, Africa, Vietnam, South Korea and of course, Singapore.

29

domestic helpers give up their only day off on Sundays to serve at Rock Kidz.



30

years. That's how long Lucy Tan, 50, has been serving in the ministry.



74

is the age of Mrs Gwee Wai Kiang, the oldest server in Rock Kidz.



104

pulpit teachers preach God's Word at Rock Kidz every Sunday, of which only 8 are full-time staff. Their professions include doctor, banker, pilot, botanist, architect, commodities trader, teacher, consultants and executives from the IT, human resource, marketing, financial planning and business development fields, as well as students.



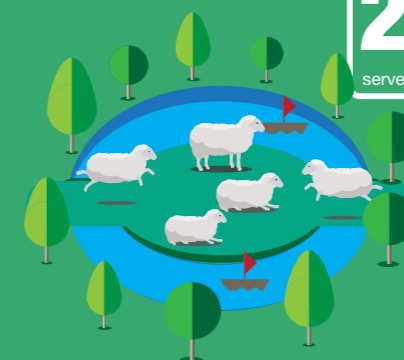
2,365

servers in Rock Kidz.



1,012

meals served every Sunday to Rock Kidz servers.



107

salvations in Rock Kidz in 2010.



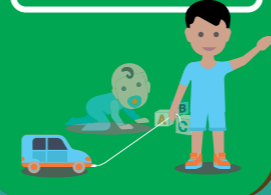
723

children received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour last year.



1,872

glorious salvations from 2010 to 2013.



777

children received the gift of tongues at Rock Kidz on Sunday, 27 January 2013.



1,972

was the average attendance five years ago.



3,622

is the average attendance this year.



4,643

is the record attendance at Rock Kidz on Sunday, 5 October 2014.



Jesus said, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these."

Matthew 19:14, NIV

Sam had failed every subject in his Primary 5 final examinations last year.

After a Rock Kidz (our children's ministry) class in April this year, the 12-year-old was moved to share, for the first time, his past failures and struggles with his teacher. Then, Sam asked for prayer.

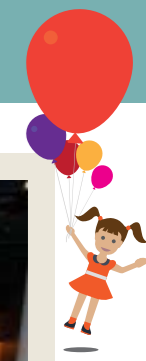
A month on, Sam was seen running into the Rock Kidz class, shouting, "Teacher, teacher! I passed every subject for my mid-year exams!"

When asked what was the cause of his success, Sam simply said, "I learnt from Rock Kidz that Jesus does not condemn me but loves me. And He has a phone number."

"I called and He answered."

Sam had been attending Rock Kidz classes that month, which were themed "Call On Him" – focusing on Jeremiah 33:3, also Jesus' "phone number": "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know."

Sam's faith grew upon hearing the lesson. His demeanour in and outside class began



"We are truly grateful to Rock Kidz for teaching our children to pray and know more about Jesus. Our children are indeed highly favoured and deeply loved by Daddy God."



to change. He called unto Jesus, whose grace was more than sufficient for him.

Every Sunday, Rock Kidz lessons based on Senior Pastor Joseph Prince's teachings are prepared by a dedicated team of curriculum writers with titles such as "He was pressed so we might be blessed" and "Favour turns nothing into every good thing".

The lesson plans are sent to over 100 pulpit teachers to prepare their messages and preach the Word to more than 3,600 children. That total is about three primary schools' worth of kids sprawled across two Rock Kidz venues at The Star Performing Arts Centre and Marina Bay Sands ballrooms.

"We focus on what our Senior Pastor preaches – pointing people to Jesus," said Pastor Lim Lian Neo, who has headed the Rock Kidz ministry for the past five years. "Our curriculum centres around two themes, 'I see Jesus' and 'Thank You for the Cross'."

"In Matthew 19:14, Jesus said, 'Let the children come to Me.' So everything we do at Rock Kidz is for the purpose of our children coming to Jesus and encountering Him. When these precious young ones receive His superabounding grace and are taught that righteousness is a gift and not a work, they reign in life."

Matthew 19:14 has been manifesting in glorious fashion at Rock Kidz, with a thumping 83.7 per cent increase

in average Sunday attendance – from 1,972 children five years ago to 3,622 today.

Many children have also been receiving the Lord Jesus into their hearts.

In 2010, there were 107 children who received Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour. Last year, Rock Kidz saw 723 salvations.

And the total number of salvations from 2010 to 2013: a whopping harvest of 1,872 children.

Daddy God has also increased the number of servers by 79 per cent - from 1,321 four years ago to 2,365 today.

"God has done much more than we can ask or think," said mother-of-four Lucy Tan, 50, who has been serving in the children's ministry since its inception in 1984.

She recalled that the ministry began some 30 years ago in a humble 4-room flat in Jurong West Street 42 while the main church gathered at Holland Road (we already had two venues back then).

"We started with only 15 kids and five or six teachers," Lucy shared. "We sat on the floor, in the kitchen, on the stairs, in whatever space we could find in the flat. We had one guitar. No microphone. But Jesus always showed up, and still does today."

"God has really taken Rock Kidz to a place of greater glory."



This year, on Sunday, 5 October, attendance at Rock Kidz hit a record high when 4,643 children attended its Children's Day celebrations.

Rock Kidz caters to children aged from one month to 12 years. Each typical Rock Kidz class programme is run in a similar manner to the English services. It begins with praise and worship, Holy Communion and offertory, followed by a Bible lesson, salvation call and closing prayer. The children are then ushered to various craft and play stations before being picked up by their parents. Classes are differentiated by age, so that lessons can be suitably tailored and ministered.

The children are taught by a team of 104 pulpit teachers who take the mike every Sunday. Their professions include doctor, banker, pilot, botanist, architect, commodities trader, teacher, consultants and executives from the IT, human resource, marketing and business development fields, as well as students.

Said Pastor Lian, "It is amazing how there's such talent in this house, where Jesus is unveiled and grace is preached. God has supplied us with such a vast array of servers who are not just gifted, but also anointed to impart a spirit of grace and impact our children with Jesus."

The increase in the number of pulpit teachers holds a special place in Pastor Lian's heart.

She calls the growth, from 58 pulpit teachers – before the children's ministry moved to two venues three years



ago – to 104 today, as "one of my biggest God moments in Rock Kidz".

"We really needed teachers who could preach the Word of God to our children. For what good is it to have two fabulous venues but no one to teach the children?" she said.

"Our Senior Pastor always taught us to speak forth what we want to see before we see it. So the pulpit team gathered and spoke over what we wanted to see. And Daddy God answered exceedingly, abundantly."

However, nothing warms Pastor Lian's heart more than when children encounter Jesus, "for that is the focus of our ministry".

Zachary, 12, was one such child.

Three years ago, he was told by doctors that he had a brain tumour. His mother Elsie, who serves with her husband in Rock Kidz, testified her son was somewhat afraid but had listened to a healing testimony at Rock Kidz.

He began to pray and trust God. He also learnt how to speak forth his healing.

Zachary even prayed for his grandmother when she was diagnosed with neck cancer. Soon thereafter, doctors found no lump in his grandmother.

When the time came this January for Rock Kidz children to write their three prayer requests for the year, two of the requests Zachary prayed for were complete healing for himself and a new mobile phone.

Daddy God answered in style.

Zachary went for a scan a few weeks later and doctors said they could find no cancerous growths.

And the Lord was so exceedingly good that Zachary won two education awards and the money he received from them paid for his new mobile phone!

Said Elsie, "God answered Zachary's prayer requests. We are truly grateful to Rock Kidz for teaching our children to pray and know more about Jesus. Our children are indeed highly favoured and deeply loved by Daddy God."

One Big Happy Rock-Solid Family

Every Sunday, parents leave their children into the loving hands of the Rock Kidz servers. Ever wondered who these servers are and what their lives are like in the Rock Kidz family? Here's a peek.

A GREAT HELP

When 53-year-old Sherry Pachingel came to Singapore as a domestic helper 21 years ago, she never imagined how blessed she would be. Her life changed one day in 2001 when she joined her friends for a service at New Creation Church (NCC). And she has been attending ever since.

"I am so blessed," she kept repeating as she recalled how she and her family have been impacted by the gospel of grace. As a result, she cannot help but want to serve. Since 2006, she has been serving in Champions (for children aged 1 month to 2 years) on her days off.

"To me, home is where church is, my home away from home," Sherry beamed. "I feel like I am a part of a big family and serving completes my Sunday. My day is fulfilled and I go back to work with a nice feeling!"

Sherry is one of the 29 domestic helpers who serve on Sundays. These ladies whose lives have been touched by the gospel of grace serve because they feel that they are a part of a larger family, and here, they have found their home away from home.



SHERRY PACHINGEL (THIRD FROM LEFT) WITH HER FELLOW SERVERS.

YOU HAD ME AT "ROCK KIDZ"

"Why are you calling me?"

That was an unexpected response the first time Dr Philemon Huang plucked up enough courage to call Alpha, a fellow Rock Kidz server.

"It was nerve wrecking and she had to ask me so plainly, not to mention so fiercely," laughed Dr Philemon.

As Dr Philemon shared, he fondly recalled the day they first met. "It was a rainy Thursday evening, 17 March 2005."

Getting to know Alpha was not difficult because being in the same ministry meant that they had plenty of opportunities to meet. For them, ministry gatherings, planning meetings and activities gave them opportunities to get to know each other better and in a deeper and more meaningful way.

Dr Philemon, 32, and Alpha, 29, got married in 2011 and today, they are proud parents to a beautiful baby girl, Laurel, born in January 2014.

To date, there are more than 30 couples who met while serving in Rock Kidz.



ROCK KIDZ PULPIT TEACHERS HAVING A BLAST AT A SERVERS' RETREAT.

PULPIT TEACHERS

It is Sunday. A child comes up to a Rock Kidz teacher to share a testimony about his victory over a challenging situation.

Another child asks the teacher to stand in faith with him as he asks Daddy God for help. Then, another child declares God's promise from a verse that was just taught in class minutes ago.

"Wow, they listened," the pulpit teacher thinks to himself. And his heart leaps for joy.

Our Rock Kidz pulpit teachers come from all walks of life. Among the 104 of them are those that hold professions

in medicine, science, aviation, finance, architecture, IT, human resource, marketing and business development, as well as students.

Full of life and energy, these teachers serve with one purpose – that each child encounters Jesus every Sunday. And even as they teach our children, these servers form kingdom friendships and build bonds with each other.

"Attending the monthly pulpit teachers ministry meeting is like coming home," shared Daphne Tan, 23. "It is a place to be fed, prayed for, encouraged and loved."

"It's an awesome place to serve," beamed 26-year-old Brigitte Woo. "To be part of the Rock Kidz family and to be able to teach about grace is a privilege. Indeed, grace – undeserved, unmerited and unearned favour – has never been so real to me than here."

IT'S A COUPLE THING

It's 5.30 on a Sunday morning and while most of us are still in deep slumber, Heow Khoon and his wife Elsie are getting ready for Sunday at Rock Kidz. By 6.30am, the couple and their two children, Zachary, 12, and Tabitha, 8, set off to The Star Performing Arts Centre (The Star PAC). Once there, the family goes their separate ways.

Heow Khoon, a business owner and leader at Beloved (for children aged 3 to 4 years)



and Elsie, a financial planner and leader at Champions (for children aged 1 month to 2 years), get to their class venues to help set up the rooms in anticipation of the classes.

They have been doing this every week for 15 years.

"We don't know what it would be like if we did not serve in Rock Kidz," said Elsie. "The ministry has been a tremendous blessing to our family. We found encouragement when we were feeling dry, prayers would flood in when we needed them, and we would rejoice as a big family when others were blessed."

As leaders, Heow Khoon, 46, and Elsie, 44, spend time caring for their fellow servers in the ministry. Elsie also meets up with her servers for lunch during the week. They spend their time in fellowship, sharing testimonies and support each other through prayer.

"It's through these lunches that I have built kingdom friendships," Elsie shared.

Heow Khoon and Elsie are just one of the many couples who serve in Rock Kidz. Together with other couples, these committed servers build friendships and create strong bonds, caring for, supporting and encouraging fellow servers in this large Rock Kidz family.

LOOKING TO SERVE?

Get connected and be a part of Rock Kidz, our children's ministry, and help us make every Sunday a SONday for our kids!

Find out more at www.newcreation.org.sg/rock-kidz

PRAISE REPORTS

LOVED AND CARED FOR

I'm a leader in DARE, our church's youth ministry group for secondary school students. Recently, my DARE group reached out to an elderly lady who sells tissues outside of The Star Performing Arts Centre. I am writing on her behalf as she wants to share about how God has blessed her.

Ever since this lady came to know Christ, our Daddy God has caused the desires of her heart to come to pass. She didn't pray for many of these things because she felt that they were "insignificant". Nonetheless, she would think to herself how nice it would be if she had these things.

There have been occasions when she felt stressed over her finances, as she's the sole breadwinner in her household. But Jesus always made a way, and people, often strangers, would bless her with what she needs, even though she didn't ask anyone for it.

There was once when she told God, "How nice it would be if I had some extra money." And that very week, for the first time ever, somebody came up to her and gave her an envelope. It contained a four-figure sum. She didn't tell anyone about what she told God. But our Daddy God heard her!

She also shared about how someone had taught her to read the Bible and now, she brings her Bible with her to read every day when she goes to work.

When the youths and I see her now, she's just full of joy, because she knows that Jesus loves her and cares for her.

- Asher Low

^{b6} SHE'S JUST FULL OF JOY,
BECAUSE SHE KNOWS
THAT JESUS LOVES HER
AND CARES FOR HER. ^{ad}

A GLORIOUS RESTORATION

I have been a Christian since 2006 but did not attend any church. I believed in God but thought that I had to be a good girl to earn His blessings. Even though I am not an entirely "good girl", He blessed my husband and I with a beautiful home and a beautiful daughter who has brought us so much joy.

I became pregnant with my second child in 2011. The pregnancy had many complications. At 34 weeks of the pregnancy, just as I was ready to welcome my baby boy into the world, I could not feel him moving for almost a day. My husband and I rushed to the hospital and we discovered that our baby had stopped moving. My world came crashing down.

But I did not question God. I only knew that He would be there with me.

The confinement period after was devastating. My only comfort from this whole ordeal was that my baby is in the happiest place with his Daddy God. And I found refuge under His wings.

I started attending New Creation Church on Christmas Sunday in 2012. During the service, the anointing was so strong and I felt overcome by emotions because I knew in an instant that I am completely loved by God. I felt free from my past sadness and trusted God for my restoration.

^{b6} I LEFT EVERYTHING
IN HIS HANDS AND
BELIEVED THAT HE WOULD
KEEP MY BABY SAFE. ^{ad}

At the start of 2013, Pastor Prince shared that it would be a year of open wombs. True enough, I became pregnant again. I experienced spotting and it made me scared all over again. On my way to the clinic, I prayed and told God I could not handle this anymore. I left everything in His hands and believed that He would keep my baby safe.

Praise God that the baby was not only safe, he grew very well without any complications throughout the entire pregnancy. He's now a healthy, chubby and happy boy. Above all, he is free from the congenital cataract that his sister and I have!

What's more, He has blessed me with a new home and a new job which allows me to go home early to spend time with my kids. All glory to our Lord Jesus Christ!

- Jaslyn

KNEE FULLY HEALED

I've been part of the Singapore army for the past 13 years and I also play ice hockey for the national team. Ice hockey has always been a passion and I haven't stopped playing since I started 18 years ago.

While playing in a friendly match last year, an opponent knocked me over and sat on my kneecap. As a result, my knee was dislocated and two of my ligaments were torn.

I was in excruciating pain. I couldn't walk normally or squat down for the next eight months. I also couldn't participate in the national competition that year or continue playing leisurely. My career was also at stake, as I needed to be fit in order to stay in the army.

I had the option of going through a reconstructive knee surgery or physiotherapy. Unfortunately, both options would not help me regain the full function of my knee. I chose the non-invasive approach and went through six months of intensive physiotherapy.

One Sunday shortly after, Pastor Prince ministered in the healing power of God during church service. And my knee felt like it was totally healed.

When I went for a check-up, my physiotherapist told me my knee had regained 95 per cent of its strength. I was told I need not go for more physiotherapy sessions. The following week, during my medical review for work, the doctors mentioned that my knee was much stronger than a surgically reconstructed knee, and I was declared combat fit.

Thank You Jesus for healing me. I know that all this time, it was our Lord Jesus who guided me to choose the right treatment option, and He is the One who healed me. Hallelujah!

- Kevin

^{b6} I KNOW THAT ALL THIS TIME,
IT WAS OUR LORD JESUS WHO
GUIDED ME... AND HE IS
THE ONE WHO HEALED ME. ^{ad}

SET FREE FROM SMOKING ADDICTION

I started smoking when I was 15. At that time, I thought it was a cool thing to do. I started off as a social smoker, smoking occasionally, but soon, I became addicted to cigarettes. I continued to smoke for another 15 years or so. By then, I was smoking a full pack of cigarettes a day, sometimes even more.

In 2005, I started attending New Creation Church. And I remember Pastor Prince sharing how one of our church members was a chain smoker and how he broke the addiction. Pastor Prince also shared how knowing and confessing that you are the righteousness of God in Christ can set you free from an addiction. I was sceptical and thought that it was just too simple to work.

Some months later, I made a decision to quit smoking. I was a little apprehensive as to whether I would be successful as I had tried several times before this, but failed miserably. But I recalled what Pastor Prince shared about confessing that I am still the righteousness of God in Christ even though I was still a smoker. I decided to try it out because after all, if this is God's word, surely it would have to work.

For the next few days and weeks, even while I smoked, I would say it out loud, "I am the righteousness of God in Christ." Even though I felt ridiculous saying it, I persevered every time I lit up.

Then one day, something happened. I realised that I no longer craved cigarettes. My 15-year addiction was broken, just like that.

In the past, I had turned to going cold turkey, using nicotine patches, exercising my willpower, but nothing worked. What finally worked for me was just believing and speaking out loud that I am the righteousness of God in Christ, in spite of my actions. Nothing was going to change who I am in Christ. I guess something in me was set in motion as I kept saying it over and over. Something must have switched on in my spirit and penetrated my addiction to break it. Today, I am happy to declare that I have been smoke-free for more than eight years!

So thank you, Pastor Prince, for preaching and teaching about who we are in Christ—forever righteous, forever loved, forever destined to live a life of victory!

- Teresa

^{b6} WHAT FINALLY WORKED FOR
ME WAS JUST BELIEVING AND
SPEAKING OUT LOUD THAT I AM
THE RIGHTEOUSNESS OF GOD IN
CHRIST, IN SPITE OF MY ACTIONS. ^{ad}

A LIFE TRANSFORMED

I became a believer in 1998 and my life changed tremendously. But I felt that something was wrong because I was repeatedly diagnosed with cancer, beginning with breast cancer in 1998. In 2002, I had colon cancer. Even after surviving both attacks, I had relapses of breast cancer in 2007 and 2010.

Then in 2011, I watched Pastor Prince on television and ordered his materials and books. The first thing I remember learning was that all of my sins have been forgiven! Before that, I was taught of the need to repent and receive forgiveness from God whenever I sinned.

Now, my walk with the Lord is amazing! I no longer feel condemned or guilty, and I am no longer walking in fear. I also have a revelation of Christ's love for me and I have an intimate relationship with Him.

With God's help, my finances have also improved. I am now 56 years old and I have my first home. I am also cancer free, have witnessed salvations in my family, and am enjoying better relationships with my family members.

I can't express in words how much Pastor Prince's ministry has blessed my life. It is forever changed! My eyes have been opened to God's grace and I will never go back to my old beliefs and ways of thinking.

- The writer has requested to remain anonymous.

66 MY EYES HAVE BEEN
OPENED TO GOD'S GRACE
AND I WILL NEVER
GO BACK TO
MY OLD BELIEFS AND
WAYS OF THINKING. *33*



ILLUSTRATION BY
ELIZA CHOO

SEND US YOUR TESTIMONY

Do you have a praise report about God's goodness and faithfulness in your life?

Email testimonies@newcreation.org.sg and share your testimony with us.



Let's connect!

Come fellowship with us! If you have a prayer need, we're here to stand in faith with you. And if you're a new believer or first-time visitor, we'd like to put a gift into your hands.

Join us at our Connect Points at:

- The Star Performing Arts Centre (Levels 5 & 7*)
- Outside Marina Bay Sands Ballrooms
- Cinema venues (Approach our ambassadors for directions)



*The Connect Point at Level 7 is available till 5.30pm.

Wholly Dependent On Him

What do you do in the face of a challenge that you know you cannot overcome, no matter how learned and accomplished you are? SOLID ROCK sat down with Grace Park as she shared how she and her daughter found hope by depending on Jesus.



Grace Park was always a picture of drive and self-determination. The 42-year-old once served as Captain in the United States Army, graduated with two master's degrees from Harvard Business School and Harvard's Kennedy School of Government, and obtained a Fulbright Fellowship in 2004. She once ran 250 kilometres across the Gobi desert in China for charity with her husband Cole Sirucek. She was in every way a self-made woman who was confident of her ability to overcome any circumstance.

But all this changed in 2013 when her daughter, Rand Charis Sirucek, was born.

"My daughter was born healthy but when she was two-and-a-half months old, she started to look jaundiced," recalled Grace. "We took her to the paediatrician who advised further testing."

One test led to another and when the diagnosis was given, Grace and Cole were heartbroken and in shock.

Baby Rand's liver was failing. She was diagnosed with biliary atresia, a condition where the bile duct between the liver and small intestine is either blocked or absent, and bile is not drained away from the liver. This condition causes toxins to build up in the body. Without serious medical intervention, doctors gave Rand only a few months to live.

Grace, who had taken pride in being well prepared for everything, was suddenly lost. "I was so broken. And for the first time ever, I realised I had to give up and depend solely on God."

Rand underwent a successful Kasai procedure to help facilitate bile drainage, but it was only a stop-gap measure. Rand's blood levels had to be checked every single week, and a liver transplant was the only way for her to survive. "It was a trying time for me. Some weeks I was okay, and some weeks I was not," Grace shared.

To make matters worse, Rand's insurance company pulled out of covering the cost of the medical procedure, just a few days before the transplant surgery. The estimated cost of Rand's surgical procedures and treatments was expected to be almost \$1 million.

Although she was born into a Christian family, Grace was quick to admit that she was someone who held fast to her values of self-effort and doing the right things to

achieve the right results. But now, she could only look to God for her breakthrough.

Grace, who had been attending New Creation Church (NCC) since 2004, found support from her friends and pastors from NCC. She also started to fill her thoughts with Bible verses that spoke of God's promises, regularly listened to sermon CDs and even plastered healing verses all over her daughter's crib. "I kept feeding my mind with the Word of God and found myself constantly praying over Rand. And I felt a rest and peace on the inside."

Six months after her Kasai procedure, baby Rand underwent a liver transplant and her father Cole was the donor.

Doctors had earlier advised the Siruceks that Rand would be dependent on medication for life. But the doctors were later astonished at Rand's rate of recovery. Within a few weeks, her liver function had reached near normal levels. And the doctors predicted that Rand could be completely weaned off the medication when she turns five.

"I was so broken. And for the first time ever, I realised I had to give up and depend solely on God."

More good news arrived. The insurance company, upon receiving a letter from the doctors, decided to cover 50 per cent of the medical costs. Then, a few hours later, Grace received news that the insurance was going to cover 100 per cent of the cost.

"All this was God," said Grace. "Looking back in terms of outcomes, I am amazed at how things have turned around, as I rested and looked to Him in everything."

These days, Grace and Cole are focused on parenting Rand and building their company, DocDoc, which empowers patients to find the right doctors. "God has used our personal experience for a greater purpose — to help others find hope," Grace beamed.

For if by the
ONE MAN'S OFFENSE
DEATH REIGNED THROUGH
THE ONE
more *much*
THOSE WHO
RECEIVE
ABUNDANCE
of *grace* AND
OF THE GIFT OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS
... WILL REIGN IN
LIFE *through*
Jesus
Christ
THE ONE
ROMANS 5:17

empower

LIFE NOTES
Raising The Next Generation:
DARE To Parent

Raising The Next Generation: DARE To Parent

Having spent the better part of a decade trying to ensure academic success for his soon-to-be teenaged son, GERALD WEE now sees a better way.



“The more they know Jesus, the more they will realise their identity in Christ and do great things for Him.”

By the time you read this, my firstborn would have finished his Primary School Leaving Examination (PSLE), and would **hopefully** be on his way to a good secondary school next year. And by **hope**, I am hanging on tightly to the Greek interpretation of the word *elpis*, which according to Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, means a confident expectation of good.

Many parents in Singapore will agree that their child’s primary education process began years before even entering the formal primary school system. Enrichment books, assessments and various extra classes were likely part of the child’s growing up years.

After the PSLE, even without the helpful reminders from friends and family who have gone before me, I know that the learning journey for my son has only just begun. There’s the General Cambridge Examinations ‘O’ and ‘A’ Levels, university life, and that special armed forces programme reserved exclusively for Singaporean boys – National Service.

There are also the “joys” and challenges often associated with parenting a teenager, and while my son is not quite a teenager yet, with the way he sometimes behaves, I wistfully wonder what it will be like when his teenaged behaviour becomes full blown. Occasionally, there is a glimmer of hope (as in *elpis*, which I, as a father, cling on to) when signs of wisdom and responsibility manifest in my son.

What is clear is that I want to be in a good place to handle the ups and downs of being a parent to a teenager. Thankfully, the parenting seminar organised by DARE (our youth ministry group for secondary school students) earlier this year provided just the opportunity for me. Here are some nuggets of practical wisdom that I gleaned from the session.

THE BIG PICTURE – PURPOSE IN LIFE

... *the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out great exploits.* (Daniel 11:32)

As your child progresses from primary to secondary school, studies are not going to get easier. The number of subjects he has to cope with literally doubles. And with the hustle and bustle of school life, plus the additional demands of co-curricular activities, it is often easy for us, as parents, to lose sight of the reason we bring up our children.

Pastor Daniel Chong, the ministry pastor of DARE, shared this mind-changing insight into parenting teenagers.

“You are not raising your children to survive the world, but to change it,” he declared. “Give them a sense of purpose to live a life that is bigger than themselves – for the glory of Jesus.”

“The more they know Jesus, the more they will realise their identity in Christ and do great things for Him,” Pastor Daniel said. “If they have a strong purpose in their lives, they won’t settle for the base things of the world – cigarettes, pre-marital sex or pornography.”

So, beyond higher education and learning opportunities, I see that it is more important to unveil Jesus in my children’s lives. My wife and I have learnt to purposefully give glory to God for the great and small things in our lives. It can be as simple as an improvement in my son’s studies, safety during mummy’s work trips, or even how God protected my son when he got lost for three hours after taking

a wrong bus home from tuition. We trust that God Himself will continue to lead and teach our children and great shall be their peace. (Isaiah 54:13) And that they will experience the reality of God in their lives because of what Jesus has done.

"You can't be with your children 24/7, but God can!" Pastor Daniel shared.

SPEAK LIFE INTO THEIR LIVES

Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. (Proverbs 22:6)

Because we love our children and desire the best for them, we often feel the need to do the "right" thing and seek to instil discipline into their lives.

Yet, Pastor Daniel pointed out that while all these have their place, to "train up" our children is not so much a matter of doing, but speaking and dedicating.

"The Hebrew word for 'train up' is *chanak* which means to dedicate," he said. "And the way you dedicate your child to God is with your mouth. It is not just about training as in doing, but speaking. As kings and priests, there is power and authority when you speak."

I've discovered that an ideal opportunity to dedicate them is when we have Holy Communion together as a family. It allows me to speak blessings into my children's lives, affirm their identity in Jesus, and to declare their destinies as people who will reign in life as champions.

"There is something powerful and prophetic in your words as parents," reminded Pastor Daniel. "Your words won't fall to the ground. It will stick in their consciousness."

PLANT THEM IN THE HOUSE OF GOD

Those who are planted in the house of the Lord shall flourish in the courts of our God. (Psalm 92:13)

Even in the midst of busy school schedules, Pastor Daniel encouraged parents not to neglect sending our children to church.

"Psalm 92 depicts our children as trees stretching forth, fruitful and blessed," said Pastor Daniel. "That is a result of being planted in the house of the Lord. Even if you face issues, keep coming to church and you never know when the Word of God will drop into their hearts."

I must admit that it wasn't easy sending my son to Rock Kidz, our children's ministry. He is more of an introvert, and in such a large group environment, he didn't really enjoy himself previously. But it has gotten better, so much so that he even had fun at a recent Rock Kidz camp for Primary 6 students. I continue to hope (*elpis*) that he will build kingdom friendships even as he moves on to DARE.

In this regard, the words of Pastor Daniel really encouraged me.

"Even if they don't have many friends, keep sending them," he shared. "God will come through. He will bless them with good friends."

STEWARDS OVER OUR CHILDREN

What resonated with me was the message that we are stewarding our children. We are not their owners, and one day, we will release them into the world. As parents, we want the best for our children but I have learnt not to be too focused on academics. There is more to life than excellent grades. Our children's lives and purposes are not one-dimensional. My desire is to raise my children as eagles, so that one day, they will soar high and live a life of greatness that glorifies Jesus.

And it is not too late to start today.

"Every child is different. Don't compare him with others. Create opportunities to talk to him so that you can understand him. God will give you creative ideas to bond with your child."

PRACTICAL PARENTING TIPS

Besides spiritual guidance and encouragement, the DARE Parenting Seminar also saw plenty of practical information dispensed, from ways to support our children in their studies to promoting cyber wellness in the home. We share some tips here.

EDUCATION

BE YOUR CHILD'S CHEERLEADER

If you want your child to succeed, be their number one cheerleader. Assure him that no matter what happens, you are always on his side. Just believing in your child, and showing him love and support can turn his situation around.

UNDERSTAND YOUR CHILD'S BENT

Every child is different. Don't compare him with others. Create opportunities to talk to him so that you can understand him. God will give you creative ideas to bond with your child.

UNDERSTAND THE ROOT OF YOUR CHILD'S STRUGGLE

The number of subjects a student takes doubles from primary to secondary school. Affirm him in his academic journey. Also, parents need to understand if the difficulty he faces is an ability or attitude issue. If it is about ability, then support him with extra help or tuition. If it is an attitude of not wanting to learn, pray with him and for him.

CYBER WELLNESS

SET BOUNDARIES, KEEP HIM SAFE

Have your child use the computer in a common space like the family room so you can keep an eye on the screen. Be wise and don't trust his flesh.

SET UP INTERNET SOFTWARE FILTERS

Pornography and other undesirable sites abound on social media and the Internet. Do install software filters on your computers, and if your child has smart mobile devices, do set up parental controls on these as well.

PARTICIPATE IN HIS ONLINE LIFE

Social sites like Facebook, Instagram and Twitter are an integral part of your child's life. Journey with him and guide him through the process.

DON'T CONDEMN

If you catch your child watching something he shouldn't, how you respond to that discovery affects the journey. Condemnation and guilt feed addiction. Don't condone negative behaviour, but affirm his identity in Christ. The gift of no condemnation sets him free and empowers him to say no.



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