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CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

True unity comes when church members grow in love for one another: City Harvest Church in prayer.

CHC 2.0: A FUTURE & A HOPE

City Harvest Church's 26th anniversary marks the first year in the next phase of its development. Senior pastor Kong Hee shares his passion and prayers for the church with *City News Weekly*.

By **THERESA TAN**

This weekend, City Harvest Church will celebrate its 26th year as a church. While the church celebrated its Silver Jubilee last year, this anniversary is no less significant, says

CHC's senior pastor Kong Hee.

"Every anniversary is always a time for us to reminisce, give thanks and celebrate what God has done among us," he says to *City*

News Weekly. "When a church goes through a difficult season that spans many years, it is very easy for the members to lose sight of their future. As we continue to fix our eyes on

Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, we must not only look back at what He has done for us, but also lift up our eyes to see what He

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CITY HARVEST CHURCH
26TH ANNIVERSARY

#CHC2POINT0

REMEMBERING
OUR DESTINY
EMBRACING
OUR IDENTITY

Thank You, Jesus, for the past 26 years.
Let us continue running the race set before us.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

CHC 2.0: A Future & A Hope (cont'd from Page 1).

will do *through* us.”

To this end, Kong has been already preparing the church the last few months. Two months ago, CHC also held its first Chinese Conference to empower the leaders of Chinese-speaking churches in the region, while a mandate has been set for the local church to reach out to Chinese nationals living and working in Singapore. In August alone, Kong has preached about the spiritual journey of CHC, conducted a three-part Bible study series on the end times, and started a series of messages on the paradigms that define this church.

“I want to use this anniversary celebration to paint a picture of ‘City Harvest 2.0’—a church that is wiser, stronger and spiritually more mature,” Kong explains. “We are a few months away from the court verdict. I cannot predict the court’s decision but God is sovereign and I fully trust His providence. He is in control of my life and our future. While I am praying and believing for the best possible outcome, I must also be a responsible leader to ensure that the church I co-founded with my wife Sun 26 years ago can carry on, *with* or *without* me.”

This anniversary weekend is significant, Kong adds, because “we want to introduce the leadership team God has put in place to take us into the future. They are proven leaders who love God passionately, and understand how to preserve His vision, values and purpose for us as a people. They will lead us into CHC 2.0.”



CN PHOTO: TAN SONG KOW

Kong's ongoing series on the CHC paradigms illuminates the purpose of the church.

PURPOSE AND PARADIGMS

The story of CHC's beginnings is an oft-told one: Kong was a computer science graduate who had a desire to become a traveling missionary. However, in 1989, God gave him an assignment: to lead a group of young people and start a church that would take their gen-

eration by storm. *purpose of God in his own generation* (Acts 13:36 ESV). After 26 years as a church, we must be able to crystallize and clearly articulate that divine purpose. Over the past few months, I prayed and wrote out the spiritual convictions that have uniquely defined us as City Harvest Church. I ended up listing

“My final prayer is that we will never lose our zeal for God, our love for Jesus’ second coming, our expectation for miracles, our moral purity, and the unbreakable unity among us, because we truly love one another.”

eration by storm.

“With more than four hundred churches in Singapore back in 1989, I often wonder why God birthed us forth as another new congregation? He must have His reasons to raise us up as a people,” notes Kong.

“The Bible says that David *‘served the*

out paradigms like ‘the pursuit of God is the whole purpose of life,’ ‘the Word is the means to abiding in Christ,’ ‘love is the divine essence,’ ‘prayer is the key to revival and miracles,’ etc.”

A paradigm is a distinct way of thinking or viewing life in a community or genera-

tion. Paradigms have the power to shape the values and beliefs of a people and direct the way they conduct life.

Kong says, “Over the years, God has given us a set of paradigms that have become the distinct way we think and reason, the lens through which we view life and ministry, and how we follow the inner leading of the Holy Spirit. These are the special ‘distinctives’ that uniquely define us as a people.”

The senior pastor underscores the importance of keeping these paradigms. “When we put them all together, no matter what our situation may be or where we may go, God’s special ‘CHC anointing’ lives on. But the moment we lose these spiritual convictions, then while we could still be ‘good’ Christians or a ‘nice’ church, we will no longer be the City Harvest Church God has called us to be.”

Kong’s messages covering the paradigms began two weeks ago and will continue weekly till he completes all 15. The teachings have been well-received. Says cell group leader Kenny Low, 40, “I’m very encouraged to see my members plugging into the paradigm series and the end times Bible study.”

THE MOST IMPORTANT THINGS

Kong says that this anniversary, he has three prayers for CHC.

“My first prayer is that our members will never lose their pursuit of God,” he says. “We must never lose our fire and spiritual hunger for God—in all His fullness—His presence, power, kingdom, righteousness, wisdom, revelation, etc. Most of all, we should pursue His heart for us. When it comes to love,

CHC'S SPIRITUAL JOURNEY



1989-1995 – Spiritual Formation

Kong Hee: “Through our formative years, God was deepening our devotional life.” The young congregation was hungry for the Word, and learned to pray loud and strong. It was common for members to experience mass deliverance and with the great move of the Holy Spirit, many received inner healing. Kong’s passion was to build up a strong local church. They received teaching from the late Dr Edwin Louis Cole (on manhood) and Dr John Avanzini (on Biblical economics). In 1995, the church moved into its first “permanent” location: the former Hollywood Theatre on Tanjong Katong Road.



1996-2001 – Revival & Church Growth

Kong: “In everything we did, we never let go of our love for God’s Word.” Revival broke out in CHC in Feb 1996 after Kong and his wife Sun Ho returned from Hawaii, having been given a revelation from God to go beyond the four walls of the church and reach out to the lost. The Caring System was taught to the congregation, and the quest to win souls saw tens, and later, hundreds coming to Christ. CHC grew to 10,000 members. Kong strengthened the people with the Word, doing studies of the Ten Commandments, Hebrews, Revelation and more. Dr AR Bernard came for the first time to CHC and preached about “Christ in culture”. The church moved into its own “miracle” building at Jurong West Street 91 in 2001.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

there is no limit as to how deep or how far we can go. Let us go as deep into God as we possibly can, and He loves it when we do that. Let's love Him, be like Him, and live for Him.

"My second prayer is that members will grow in our love for one another. God is love. The first and great commandment is about love. When Jesus gives us the new commandment, three times He urges us to love one another as He has loved us. Jesus accepts us, values us and believes in us. Jesus serves us, and laid down His life for us. Most of all, He always forgives us. Love and forgiveness are synonymous. There is no love without forgiveness. The older we grow as a church, the more loving and forgiving we must be toward one another. We must easily and quickly let go of any anger, frustration and disappointment whenever they surface. Without a forgiveness that is genuinely from the heart, there can be no true unity among us."

Kong points out that if the church can mature in this area of love and forgiveness, "we can truly be the Bride that Jesus has called us to be. By our love and forgiveness, the world will know that we are Jesus' disciples."

He shares that he recently referred to *The Decline & Fall of the Roman Empire*, published in 1776 and widely considered the greatest

historical work in English. Its author, Edward Gibbon, was considered the premier historian of the Enlightenment.

"Gibbon gave the five reasons for the rapid growth and influence of Christianity within the Roman Empire," notes the senior pastor. "The Early Church had one, uncompromising zeal; two, a view of eternal rewards; three, supernatural miracles; four, moral purity; and five, unbreakable unity. In spite of the severe persecution meted out by the Romans, Gibbon estimated that by the end of the third century, there were at least one million Christians in Rome. The extreme difficulties didn't stop them. Christianity kept growing until it became the official religion of the Roman Empire in 380 AD."

"When I shared these five reasons to a member of the church staff recently, she immediately said, 'Pastor, isn't that exactly how City Harvest was like in the early days? We were all so devoted to the Lord!' I was pleasantly surprised and humbled by her very enthusiastic and sincere response."

As the church celebrates its 26th anniversary, Kong's final prayer is "that we will never lose our zeal for God, our love for Jesus' second coming, our expectation for miracles, our moral purity, and the unbreakable unity among us, because we truly love one another."

TRIALS & TESTIMONIES



CN PHOTO: DANIEL POH

Jeff Tong (in purple) and his family started attending CHC again after news of the trial.

The legal case involving six City Harvest leaders and members broke in May 2010. Following an investigation, the six were accused of conspiring to misuse church funds. Hearings for what has come to be called "the CHC trial" began in May 2013, and for 137 days over a two-year period, the court heard the testimonies of the six defendants, 14 prosecution witnesses and three defense witnesses. Next month, both defense and prosecution will make oral submissions to the court.

Many interesting points

senior counsel N Sreenivasan's argument that the church did not suffer the apparent loss of S\$50m but recouped all its investments with interest.

But what is perhaps more interesting and encouraging to the church is that hundreds of people have come to CHC and made this their home church since the trial began. When Goh Songyu, 22, was invited to CHC for its opening service at Suntec in 2011, he declined the invitation. "I was reluctant to come due to the news I heard about the church. Even though I didn't come, I watched the service via online streaming. It was the first

time for me and during the hearings, including how the Crossover Project of CHC reaped nearly 140,000 salvations during Sun Ho's concerts, how member Wahju Hanafi underwrote the Crossover Project, and

time for me and during the praise and worship, I was touched by the presence of God. I was amazed God's presence can travel through the Internet to touch a reluctant person like me. The following week, I decided to come and give my heart to Jesus. Now, I am serving as a connect group leader and in altar call ministry," he said.

As the Bible says, God works all things together for good. Even with the negative press that the trial attracted, one couple was drawn back to church. Jeff Tong, 34, and Vinny Tan, 31, used to attend CHC when it was located at Hollywood Theatre, but they backslid and forgot about the church. It was because of the trial and the media coverage surrounding it that the Tongs heard about CHC again. "We felt that we had to be back to support our family in this time of adversity," they said. "To us, a family must stay together in tough times. When we came back, we immediately felt that this truly is home."



2002-2009 – Global Missions & Expansion

Kong: "The Great Commandment is the motivation of our mission. The Great Commission is the goal of our mission. The Cultural Mandate is the strategy to fulfill that mission." The Crossover Project was launched and everywhere Ho performed, hundreds came to Christ. CHC was becoming a "missions church". Emerge (youth conference) was launched in 2003. Throughout all this, Kong continued equipping the people with the Word, leading them in the study of the books of the Bible such as the two books of Samuel, Daniel, Psalms, Zechariah, Isaiah, and topics like "Law and Grace" and "Making Marriage Work". In 2005, Kong preached about engaging the marketplace. This dovetailed into the Cultural Mandate series of sermons in 2007 which linked marketplace ministry with the Crossover. To ensure that the members not only live out the Cultural Mandate but at the same time keep their focus on Jesus, Kong preached a long series on the Sermon On The Mount. In 2008, CHC held the first Asia Conference.



2010-2015 – Trials & Tribulations

Kong: "I want to commend to you to God and to the whole counsel of His Word ... Heaven and earth will pass away but His Word for you will never pass away!"

The first half of 2010 could not have gone better for CHC: it became a co-owner of Suntec Convention Centre, the US Crossover album was almost ready for launch, and the second Asia Conference saw 25,000 delegates from 70 nations. But on May 31, 2010, investigations on Kong and his team began. Through the trauma the leadership and the people endured, God sent His Word to help them deal with crisis, to put their hope in Christ, to remember the Father heart of God, to walk in the Spirit of faith, and to enlarge their inner capacity.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

Sun Ho: “If We Stay United, We Are Immovable”

As City Harvest Church turns 26, co-founder Sun Ho reminisces about what it was like to help shepherd a rapidly growing congregation at the age of 18, and what drives the leadership going forward today.

By **YONG YUNG SHIN**

It was a Religious Emphasis Week event at Anglican High School in 1986, led by a young man known as “Brother Kong,” which planted the seed for the birth of City Harvest Church. Among the many who responded to the altar call was Sun Ho, then a secondary school student who later joined the church as staff in 1988 and became a cell group leader shortly before CHC was founded in 1989.

Progressively, she took on the roles of music director, overseeing praise and worship during church services; as she was given charge over a zone of cell groups, she also learned to serve in the areas of deliverance and counseling (Ho holds a Master of Arts in Christian Counseling). One of her first disciples, Chia Ting Ting, today the pastoral supervisor for the School of Theology, recalls, “It was her wholehearted passion for God which inspired me to grow in my spiritual walk.”

City News Weekly speaks to Ho, co-founder of CHC and wife to its senior pastor Kong Hee, about her years in ministry, both then and now.

You started leading cell groups (CGs)—up to nine a week!—when you were just 18. What was that like?

Our CGs were very active in soul-winning and they grew rapidly. We had to teach and guide them as they multiplied. It was quite daunting to lead a CG for the first time as I was so young both in age and ministry. But I thank God that the Holy Spirit was—and is—my Helper, to help and lead me. I learned what it meant to flow with Him in preaching, providing leadership and pastoral care. Really, it is key to trust and obey God one



CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

Ho in a sharing session with the church.

step at a time, always living by faith in the Holy Spirit.

What was your biggest challenge back then as a young cell group leader (CGL)?

We were all very young; many of our members faced strong parental objection to the faith. I would often have to meet the parents in person and explain what was going on, assuring them that faith in Christ will only help their children become morally upright, more honoring toward them and more diligent toward their schoolwork.

It wasn't easy as I did not have a commanding presence due to my petite size! Slowly but surely, though, as the parents witnessed the positive changes in their children's attitude and behavior, they came to trust me and the church.

Did you face parental objection yourself?

When I told my dad and mom that I wanted to get water baptized, they dragged me out of the house and forced me to kneel before the altar and pledge my allegiance, which I did not. At night my mom would come to my bedside, thinking I was asleep, and cry, telling me I was splitting up the family. My father threatened that if I went to get baptized, he

would burn down the church building and harm Brother Kong.

So, on that day of the baptism, my father drove me to the church at Marine Parade. Brother Kong and the others were all praying for me. Throughout the journey, my father didn't say a word. I was so afraid—my dad is a man of his word: if he said he was going to do something, he would. When we reached, I said bye to him, and he simply said, “Bye.” I ran out of the car, but he didn't follow me. I was so thankful! My parents kind of accepted it and let me go. It was really God.

Besides counseling and praise and worship, you had a very powerful deliverance ministry. How did that begin and was it a part of the weekly service?

We didn't come into it by choice—we were first exposed to it as a church when we saw and heard members manifesting and convulsing during Kong's preaching sessions. As we were new to it, we didn't really know what to do; we later came to realize that many of the youth had dabbled in the occult or had experienced traumatic abuse.

God used pastors Albert Je-banayagam and Mike Connell to minister deliverance in our services and they personally trained us in deliverance ministry.

I see deliverance as an essential ministry of Christ. Jesus said that in His name we *will* cast out demons! And when we cast them out, it is a sign that the kingdom of God has come upon us (Matt. 12:28).

Deliverance helps us, as believers, to break free from the bondage of satan, and gives us a fresh start in our Christian walk with God. However, we should aim to be “devil-free” in our lives by maintaining a consecrated,

personal walk with Jesus. As we mature in our spiritual life, we should be better equipped to guard our thoughts, to allow no room for the devil to have a foothold in us (Matt. 12:43-45).

There was a youth who was involved in the occult. At one service, the anointing of God came mightily upon the congregation. Demons began to manifest within the teenager and he started convulsing and slithering on the floor like a snake.

After the service, I prayed for him in the church office. He started screaming and let out a loud burp that smelt foul—he had just eaten quite a bit of durian for lunch and so our tiny office was filled with a very strong durian odor. It was so funny! Kong doesn't like durian at all, and he struggled through the deliverance session.

The demons in this young man were very strong and threw him around the room. He kicked a huge hole into the wall! Back then, we were renting our office space from another church. We had such a hard time explaining to the church elders how a “simple” prayer and counseling session resulted in damage to their office—they weren't very amused.

You're also known among the pioneers of CHC for your skills

in counseling. What made you so effective?

We are all products of our own experiences. I grew up having dysfunctional neuroses and I've struggled with chronic depression most of my life. So, when members share with me their struggles, I really feel a lot for them. I take time to listen to their struggles and when necessary, give my thoughts. Sometimes, all people want is a listening ear. To me, one of the most fulfilling things about serving in church is to help members receive healing in their wounded spirit and recovery from emotional trauma.

When you took the stand in court, you said one reason you came back to Singapore was to tend to the church during this period. How have you done that past five years?

These years, I have worked closely with pastors Aries [Zulkarnain] and Bobby [Chaw] in making executive decisions for the church. (I used to give Bible study to both of them when they were in secondary school!)

We must wisely design programs and organize events that will meet the needs of the people and fulfill the vision of God. Our church today is made up of people from nursing infants to very elderly persons; there is no lon-

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PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY HARVEST CHURCH

Clockwise from top: Ho at a praise and worship session just before her own baptism; fellowshiping with friends; preaching at a service during a mission trip to the Philippines.



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CHURCH & MISSIONS

Sun Ho: "If We Stay United, We Are Immovable" (cont'd from Page 5).

ger "one size fits all." Our team constantly gets feedback from our members and we discuss how we can best meet their needs.

I am also personally discipling some of our pastoral staff and lay leaders. I want to train them to be more anointed and wiser in their leadership. The church is as strong as its weakest link, so we must nurture our members to be spiritually focused, mentally strong and emotionally resilient to see CHC through to its next level.

What motivates you in the decisions you make for the church?

A church is not a business; it's a spiritual family. Our bottom line is not profit but people. I was with Kong from the very beginning. I have seen first-hand how God built up this church from zero, when we had nothing in our pockets. Our greatest assets then were our people. We wholly believed in God's power and faithfulness, and in His vision for us as a church. Against all odds, we built a ministry that has blessed a generation. We need to get that back.

Due to the ongoing trial, it's a fact that we have lost members over the past five years. Our church finances have declined due to the drop in tithes and offerings collected; staff and volunteers' morale has also been affected. My focus is to build up the spiritual morale of the staff, the volunteers and the members. I want to inspire them to keep loving God and loving one another, and to strengthen the bond of love we have built over the years. If we stay united, we are immovable.

As co-founder of CHC, how do you feel the leadership (including the zone leaders and CGLs) has evolved over the years—in both good and bad ways?

Because of the size of our church, Kong and I no longer know each leader by name or have close proximity and time with them as compared to the early years when our church first started. We are still trying to get to know as many leaders as we can.

However, we do sense the love and unity from the leaders and CGLs whenever we come together. Kong and I are especially grateful to the zone leaders and CGLs who have chosen to stay with us as we journeyed through these past five years of very intense trials and tribulations. Our challenges ahead are still great, but we have all grown stronger and deeper in our spiritual maturity and as a church family.

Having passed its Silver Jubilee last year, CHC is now in its next era. What does the future hold?

I sincerely believe that our best years are still ahead of us. We must know that trials and tribulation are part and parcel of revival. Kong and I are waiting to see all the promises of God fulfilled in CHC. I have no doubt we are going to see the greatest revival ever in history, and being City Harvest Church, we want to be a part of it!

The Wise Increase In Knowledge

Why City Harvest Church's Bible study curriculum gets a reboot after 12 years and why you should sign up.

By **YONG YUNG SHIN**

How may Christians hear the voice of God better? What does it mean to be sanctified and consecrated? What relevance does the Tabernacle of Moses hold for the modern-day believer?

These are some of the topics covered in the City Harvest Church's Bible study curriculum, which is part of the church's Christian education program (other elements include churchwide Bible study series and the School of Theology). The Bible study curriculum, which is taught at weekly classes, exists to equip members not just to understand the Word better but to apply its truths to their lives.

Prepared by CHC's senior pastor Kong Hee, who drew from works of Christian authors including Watchman Nee and

Derek Prince, the curriculum consists of 18 books covering topics from basic doctrines about Christian beliefs to sanctification, the gifts of the Spirit and Jesus' most lauded teaching, the Sermon on the Mount.

Recently, CHC's Bible study series saw its first revision in 12 years. Jeremy Choy, the pastor in charge of this effort, tells *City News Weekly* that the revamp aims "to make the entire Bible study more member-focused. We shortened the original length of the Bible study modules from 10 to six lessons because we know that people are time-short. At the same time, we want to preserve the teachings so that members will not miss out on the foundations and Biblical truths.

"The introductory modules, namely Church Introductory Class, Getting Started and Christian Lifestyle, have been customized and made more congruent with the church's mission and 'DNA' of CHC," says Choy. "We have restructured it so that it's very clear how members should fulfill the church mission, at the same time develop the value system of a true Christian."

The other books in the curriculum contain "very solid Biblical teachings," says the pastor, pointing out that these have been revised to streamline content and remove repetitions.

Believers who are new to the Word of God or who need a refresher are strongly encouraged to sign up for the CHC Bible study courses, which run in sequence and draw the learner in to a deeper understanding and appreciation of Scripture.

Choy adds that these Bible study classes are just the beginning. "[Learning] should be a lifelong process in our walk with God. Not only should you undergo systematic Biblical education, but do your own readings and buy material to help you study the Bible further. When you desire to learn more, there's the School of Theology as well as other institutions of higher Biblical learning."

Church Introductory Class (1 module)

This gives new members a basic understanding of CHC's history, its vision and mission as well as its core beliefs and structure.

Getting Started (1 module)

A brief overview of the basic subjects of the Christian faith, from God's salvation plan for all mankind to spending time with God and getting to know the Holy Spirit.

Christian Lifestyle (2 modules)

This study helps believers discover life's greatest aim, their personal calling in life and what discipleship is.

Victorious Living (1 module)

How a church should function in order to impact society, according to the Bible. Topics include how to share the Gospel in a relevant way, divine healing and spiritual warfare.

Foundation Truths (2 modules)

Going deeper into the doctrines of the Christian faith: repentance, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment and how to guard against unbiblical teachings.

Going On To Perfection (1 module)

Structured around the Tabernacle of Moses, this series draws a parallel between the Outer Court, the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies in the Old Testament with the believer's body, soul and spirit as he or she journeys on to spiritual maturity.

Gifts Of The Holy Spirit (1 module)

The nine supernatural gifts of the Holy Spirit: how to receive them and how to use them for daily living and ministry.

Sermon On The Mount (3 modules)

Study what was described by St Augustine as "a perfect standard for the Christian life": Jesus's teaching on cultivating the attitudes of the Kingdom.

Making Marriage Work (1 module)

This series explains the Biblical institution of marriage, the responsibilities of the husband and wife and how each should meet the needs of the other, God's way.

Song Of Solomon (1 module)

This study of the relationship of Jesus and His Bride, the Church will bring the believer from a place of intense need to complete satisfaction.

Cultural Mandate (2 modules)

An intensive study of the theological concepts and practical applications of walking in "holy worldliness" to bring Christ into culture.

Cell Group & Caring System; Cell Group Leadership (2 modules)

The cell group is the building block of the church. Learn how to be a good cell group leader, and how to grow a fruitful cell group.

Members may purchase the new workbooks from The Ink Room. Visit chc.org.sg for class schedules.





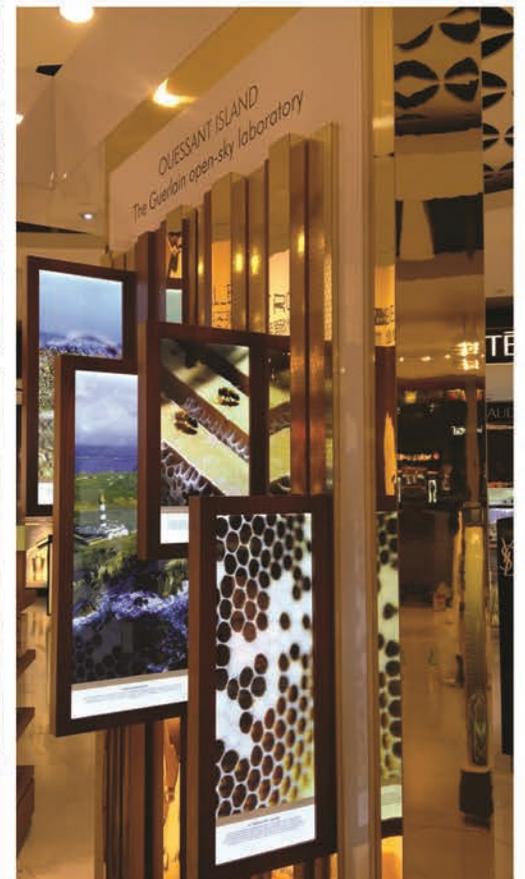
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CHURCH & MISSIONS

Making Disciples Of The Nations

City Harvest Church is a “missions church” that has carried out the Great Commission since its inception. Missions director Bobby Chaw recounts CHC’s history spreading the Gospel.

By **DAWN SEOW**

In 1989, a young man named Kong Hee had his heart set on being a missionary. Just as he was about to embark on a journey to be a full-time missionary to the Philippines with Christ for Asia, a Singapore-based organization, the Holy Spirit gave him another mission: to “raise up a new generation of believers that will take the nations by storm.”

Kong heeded the call of God and, along with 20 young people, birthed City Harvest Church. But he never lost his desire to reach the nations outside of Singapore.

“Mission work has always been in Pastor Kong’s heart and part of his DNA,” says Bobby Chaw, CHC’s missions director. “His theological belief is to go outside of Singapore into all the world, preach the Gospel and make disciples.”

Although Kong focused on building the local church in the early days, he would make regular trips to churches in countries like the Philippines and Malaysia to preach, usually with one other church worker.

“At that time, overseas missions involved only Pastor Kong and the full-time church staff,” recalls Chaw. “But in 1994, when CHC launched its Bible school, then called City Harvest Bible Training Centre (CHBTC), now the School of Theology (SOT), the church started sending Bible School students out to the mission field.”

IN ALL JUDEA & SAMARIA

In 2002, following a prophecy he received, Kong declared CHC was a “missions church”. That year, the church launched the Crossover Project, sending Sun Ho, the church’s co-founder and wife of Kong, out into the world as a secular singer who used pop music to bring the Gospel to the unchurched. To organize Ho’s Gospel concerts, CHC began working with churches in different parts of Asia, like Taiwan, Malaysia and Indonesia.

“The Crossover Project was a big breakthrough in our overseas missions work,” Chaw says. “Through this project, we were connected to different churches in Taiwan, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Australia. As we started working with them, many of these churches formed a relationship with us. We worked together on the concerts, and we got people saved for the city.”

To each city Ho held a Gospel concert in, CHC would send an advance team to conduct training for the ministry workers of the partner church before the concert. “We taught them whole process: how to walk with the counselees to the front, say the sinner’s prayer with them, take down their particulars, pray with them and how to conduct follow-up after that. Because of this process of working together, relationships were built,” explains Chaw.

CHC MISSIONS

How We Do Missions
 “Pastor Kong’s concept of missions is that we don’t knock on just any doors; we go to places where we have a **RELATIONSHIP** with the people”
 ~Bobby Chaw, Missions Director

- 1 EVANGELISTIC MEETINGS**
 To support for overseas churches, Kong would visit and preach at their services, and spend time in discipling and fellowshiping with the pastors and leaders of the church.
- 2 TRAINING & TEACHING**
 Apart from the School of Theology in Singapore, CHC has Bible Training Centers in Indonesia and the Philippines that equip church pastors and leaders in those countries.
- 3 HUMANITARIAN WORK**
 In theology, humanitarian work is part of Christian missions: we reach those in need with the love of Christ.

The **CROSSOVER PROJECT** opened doors for CHC’s overseas missions work

Close to **140,000** people received salvation in Asia

SOT SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

3,786 graduates

Nepal, Sendai, Aceh, Sichuan, Haiti, Badullah, Iloilo-Tacloban

The Taiwanese churches that had collaborated with CHC on the Crossover concerts started sending their members to SOT, CHC’s Bible school in Singapore. Up to that point, SOT had mostly trained Singaporeans in English, but in 2002, the School received its first batch of foreign Chinese-speaking students. Since that year, SOT’s yearly intake has become increasingly international, and lessons are simultaneously translated into Mandarin and Japanese.

In 2003, Kong felt a burden to reach out to China. When he shared this with the church, church members began to go to China for short-term mission trips and study trips. Chaw says, “Each zone in CHC adopted a province in China and started praying for the people there. At that time we were still seeking the Lord on the direction for China.”

The teams that went on the trips established connections with the local Chinese churches. In 2004, a missionary to China, Dennis Balcombe introduced CHC to several local churches in China and that opened many doors. Over the years, CHC has made over 700 trips to these parts of China.

THE BLUEPRINT OF CHC’S MISSIONS

By April 2014, CHC has sent its church

members to 86 global cities on missions. CHC’s belief in building strong local churches has resulted, today, in 48 affiliate churches and 30 associate ministries, as well as Bible schools in Indonesia and the Philippines.

“Pastor Kong’s concept of missions is that we don’t knock on just any door, but we go to places where we have a relationship with the people,” Chaw says. “This is because we want to have longevity in our work in a certain place—we don’t want to be doing one-off mission trips. We want to keep going back to help them build their local church, to make disciples, to help their church grow, help their music band transform and help them become more effective in evangelism. We mostly go to the churches started or run by SOT graduates because we already have a relationship with them.”

Since it was founded, SOT has played a crucial role in CHC’s overseas missions work.

“The sending out of Bible school students for mission trips from 1994 marked a milestone for CHC’s overseas missions,” notes Chaw. “From just Pastor Kong and full-time staff going on missions, the Bible school students were now involved.”

Because of such mission trips, CHC was able to extend its influence to the overseas churches. Two years later, CHBTC received its first batch of international students

from nations like India, Japan, Indonesia, Malaysia, and the Philippines.

The relationship between CHC and the international SOT graduates does not end the day they graduate. Many of them keep in touch with the leaders in CHC because they want to bring CHC’s “DNA” back to their churches in their home country.

“After receiving their training, many international students return to their countries to build churches but they stay in regular contact. When they share with us the needs of their church and the problems they face, we would try to send teams to help them build their church. Some may not give us a formal invitation because they are too shy, but every year they would come and visit CHC with their team. When we start to know them better, we would offer our help,” explains Chaw.

To date, SOT has equipped up to 6,663 students from 38 countries with a passion for the Word and a heart for the harvest. “Many of the relationships we have with our affiliate and associate churches today started because our SOT graduates stayed in touch with us and asked for discipleship,” Chaw says.

“We have a covenant with these churches because they want to build a church that follows CHC’s mission. We want to help them achieve this so we provide the training and resources they need. In return, they would give us regular progress reports.”

3 TYPES OF MISSIONS

Chaw identifies three types of missions CHC conducts. The first are overseas evangelistic meetings.

To support overseas churches, Kong would visit and preach at their services, and spend time in discipling and fellowshiping with the pastors and leaders of the church. Sometimes, he would bring a worship band or visual communications staff to train the local ministry workers to improve the quality of their worship services.

The overseas Emerge meetings, which began in 2006 in Taiwan, Kuching and Kuala Lumpur are an example of such support. Emerge is a CHC youth movement that holds a major event once a year, and affiliate churches have adapted its format for their youth populations. Chaw

CHURCH & MISSIONS



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CITY HARVEST CHURCH

CHC's overseas missions over the years. A&B: CHC's early missions to the Philippines. C: SOT students preaching at an Indonesian church. D: Members setting up tentage for a Crossover concert in Sibu, Malaysia. E: Jimmy Sng, a CHC pastor, training new ushers in Kuala Lumpur.

describes, "We sent the pastoral team to work together with the ministry workers in the local churches so they could get 'on-the-job' training. Many of our members volunteered on these trips to show the locals how to run the evangelistic services, youth camps and they also helped facilitate events."

The second type of mission work is training and teaching. Currently, apart from SOT in Singapore, CHC has Bible Training Centers in Indonesia and the Philippines that equip church pastors and leaders in those countries. To date, these Bible Training Centers have graduated 3,786 students.

Chaw explains that sometimes it is difficult for overseas leaders to come to Singapore to attend SOT, "so we want to help them. At the Bible Training Centers in these countries, we gather the local church leaders and members and teach them CHC's Bible study curriculum. The program is short-term: lessons are conducted over a week each month, for five or six months. This allows them to cover five or six books in the Bible study program."

Further support comes from church members and SOT students who organize short-term mission trips.

"The SOT students or church members would usually hold evangelistic meetings on their mission trips because it gives the local church a reason to have a big meeting and invite their unchurched friends," says Chaw. "Sometimes, our members help to organize youth camps or do humanitarian work like refurbishing orphanages and homes for the elderly."

Church members keen to go on such mission trips gather their own team members, then work with the church's missions department. The department then finds out the needs of the affiliate and associate churches, and connects the teams accordingly.

The third kind of overseas missions that CHC conducts is disaster relief

work. CHC has sent medical aid into places that have suffered earthquakes and tsunamis, like Banda Aceh, Haiti, Sichuan, Sendai and most recently, Nepal. Unlike the other types of missions, these preach the Gospel not with words but with actions. Says Chaw, "in theology, humanitarian work is part of Christian missions. Jesus said, 'When I was hungry you fed me, when I was thirsty you gave me something to drink.' We reach those in need with the love of Christ, just as Mother Teresa did in Calcutta."

NEXT: REACHING THE CHINESE IN SINGAPORE

This year, CHC's missions has a new focus: reaching unchurched Chinese nationals in Singapore. Chaw explains this does not replace the mission work CHC has been doing overseas. "What we have established, we will continue to do," he says, "but the new work we are doing now is to reach out to the mainland Chinese here."

This grew out of a revelation that Kong had when he met Rev Dr Chan Kim Kwong in Hong Kong this year. Chan is the executive secretary of the Hong Kong Christian Council, whom God had given a burden for China. For over 30 years, Chan traveled across China, studying the development of Christianity in the mainland and its territories over the decades.

Chan told Kong that God has brought over a million Chinese nationals to Singapore. Many of them are here to study and



Dr Chan Kim Kwong at CHC's Chinese Conference in June 2015.

work for a period of time. Since CHC has already sown into China's mission work over the years, why not reach the Chinese people in Singapore?

To create the momentum for this vision, CHC organized its inaugural Chinese Leadership and Revival Seminar in June this year. Almost 300 church pastors and leaders from China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan gathered for the three-day conference.

Kong taught the leaders about the

secrets to CHC's growth and revival over the years, and about the relationship between youth ministry and pop culture.

CHC members were encouraged to invite their China-born friends to church that weekend. A special item, the Parade of Provinces showcased representatives from different provinces, highlighting the unique characteristics of each province. Taiwanese singer, Wing Luo, performed and shared his testimony. That weekend, many people responded to the altar call for salvation and accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior.

Chaw says that in the coming months, CHC will hold regular English services with a Chinese emphasis "to create a platform for the English-speaking members to bring their China-born friends," he says.

Where God leads CHC in this next phase of its missions remains to be seen, but the church will remain faithful to its call to go into all the world and preach the Gospel.

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CHURCH & MISSIONS

A Sacrificial Offering

Till The End Of Time, City Harvest Chinese Church's sixth album, is a true labour of love, says the album's producer.

By ALLEN YU



CN PHOTO: MELVIN TAN

One of many practice sessions the Chinese Church band put in.

Five years ago, City Harvest Chinese Church embarked on a music project at the suggestion of its pastor Tan Ye Peng. We wanted to produce a praise and worship album that would be given free to our members for them to use during their own quiet time. That first album was a simple project: 12 praise and worship songs were selected and recorded live during

Sunday service. Post-production was done in an hour, and the lyric booklet was simply designed. Within a month after the CD and booklet were sent off to the printer, the members held the first Chinese Church album in their hands.

Fast-forward five years to the weekend of Aug 15-16, 2015: Chinese Church launched its sixth praise and worship album, titled

Till The End Of Time (直到最后). The theme of the album, suggested by Pastor Tan, is the name of God, about exalting His name, about His character and nature. This is in line with Pastor Tan's sermons from the past one year. The title track is about how we can always look to God when we are in trouble and how His love will never fail us or forsake us.

The production process for this album took nearly seven months; planning began as early as last year October. This was by far our biggest and most difficult project. The album contains eight original songs written by our members—the most we have composed for any album—and it involved the largest number of people ever: eight songwriters, 21 musicians and 12 singers, most of whom are volunteers. For four



months, we had weekly practices and recording sessions. The other four songs in the album are from other churches, including a Mandarin version of ALM UK's 'We Believe'. *Till The End Of Time* is the first studio album for Chinese Church.

It was a new experience for our worship leaders to be confined to a small room after having freedom to move on stage.

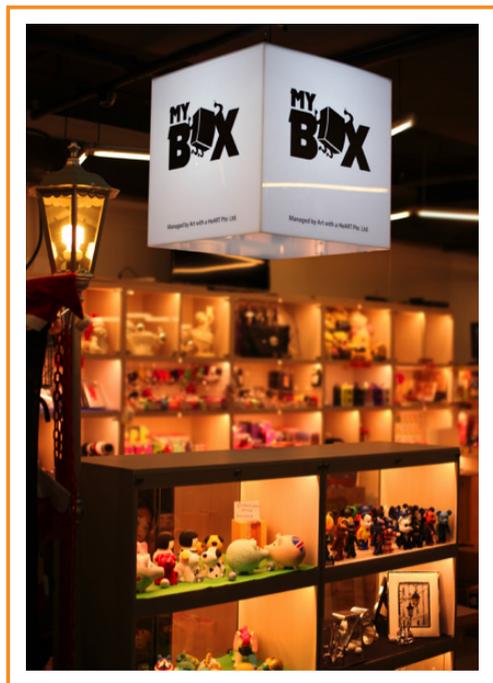
Without access to professional music arrangers, the music team all came together during practice and everyone gave their ideas on musical arrangement. It was frustrating and discouraging at times when we had a deadline looming but our creative juices had dried up. There were times when we only manage to finalize our music arrangement on the day of recording, giving the musicians very little time to master their parts. It was nothing short of a miracle that the recording was done in just three takes.

As Yap Lee Sang, our music director and keyboardist says, "It's truly by God's grace that the band manage to finish recording the 12 songs in the given time, because these volunteers had to juggle both recording and serving during weekend services."

Ultimately, this album was accomplished from start to finish by Chinese Church's own members. Although it may not have been professionally produced, it is an album we can all truly be proud of. *Till The End Of Time* is our sacrificial offering unto God: we all came together bringing our best; we gave our time and energy to create this album. We all share a vision to bless the members with our music, and we are simply God's vessels to bring this album to pass. I feel privileged to have been a part of this effort.

As for what we hope this album will achieve, Zhou Ling, one of our song leaders says it best: "I hope anyone who listens to this album will be touched by the presence of God, and that the Holy Spirit will minister to the hearts of the people through the songs."

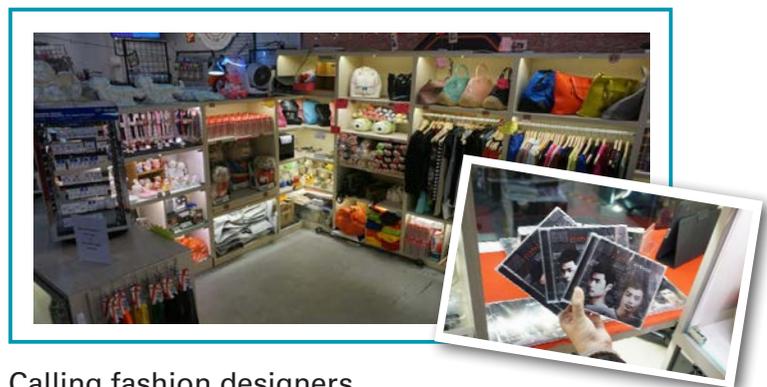
Allen Yu is a Chinese Church member and the producer on Till The End Of Time.



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CHURCH & MISSIONS

The Days Of Their Youth

Emerge crosses its 12th year of raising youth, ready to transform their generation for the glory of God.

By **DAWN SEOW** (Additional reporting by Michelle Heng, Fiona Wai, Bethany Ng, Ashley Pek, Beverly Ng, Nicholas Wong, Gwendolyn Tan, Eleanor Tan and Phua Chee Kiong)



PHOTOS COURTESY OF EMERGE COMMITTEE

Senior pastor, Kong Hee, delivered a word in season to encourage the youths.

“Ultimately, the anointing within us is what supports the anointing upon us. The more developed we are on the inside, the more powerful we will become on the outside.” These were the words of Kong Hee, senior pastor of City Harvest Church, speaking at the Emerge weekend services from Jul 3 to 5. He challenged the youths of CHC to be carriers of God’s presence—which can only happen if they are willing to pay the price and be committed to seek God in His secret place, he explained.

When CHC first started, God told Kong “to raise a generation of young people who will take Asia by storm.” In those days, almost every person that attended the church was a youth. Through prayer meetings, Bible studies and discipleship, they learned how to become carriers of God’s presence. Decades later, many of the youth are now pastors and ministry leaders continuing the call of God upon the church.

In 2003, CHC launched the Emerge movement to empower youth, ages 13 to 25, to realize their talent, be inspired to serve God and make a difference in their generation. Competitions challenged the youths in the areas of sports, preaching, and Scripture memory, at the same time showcased their talents in singing, song-writing and dancing.

Every year, the Emerge committee organizes workshops and tuition programs that encourage the youths to excel in

their studies as well as improve in their life skills. Across the zones and districts of the church, the youth will also be involved in community service projects, learning what it means to be the “salt and light” in the world.

The highlight of Emerge takes place in June, during the mid-year school holidays. Each year, the students take a break from their studies to gather for the highly-anticipated youth camps, following which, the Emerge celebration then culminates in the Emerge weekend during church service.

WORD TO THE YOUNG

Over three services in this year’s Emerge Weekend, Kong challenged the youths to have a different spirit, just like Caleb in the Bible and to be carriers of the presence of God. The evangelistic meeting on Sunday saw over 200 people giving their hearts to Jesus.

Reading from Numbers 14:24, which says, “But My servant Caleb, because he has a different spirit in him and has followed Me fully, I will bring into the land where he went, and his descendants shall inherit it,” Kong, in the first service, encouraged the youths to “have a different spirit and follow God wholeheartedly.” He also encouraged the youths to make a difference in the lives of those around them. “All it takes to change the world is to win one lost person, one soul at a time,” he said.

On Saturday night, Kong delivered a message on the importance of finding one’s secret place with God. It was in the secret place that Jesus received His power and anointing to do the work of God. Kong also revealed that this secret place where God longs to commune with the individual is, in fact, the heart. The Bible says that God’s people are the temple of the Holy Spirit and that anointing abides deep in them. He differentiated between the anointing that comes upon, and the anointing that dwells within. He charged the youths that, ultimately, the anointing upon them is supported by the anointing within them. Kong left the youth with a challenge to develop that anointing within them and be carriers of God’s presence. This can only be done if they are willing to pay the price to be committed to seek God in His secret place.

The evangelistic meeting on Sunday saw a mini-concert featuring a number of local artistes. Scarlet Avenue, the

cast from the movie *Ah Boys To Man 3*, together with Benjamin and his sister, Narelle Kheng from the Sam Willows wow-ed the young churchgoers with their high-energy performances. What was unexpected was how the presence of God touched Narelle when the pair sang a beautiful rendition of the hymn “As The Deer”, and the presence overflowed into the congregation and touched many hearts in the auditorium.

Kong gave a short word, leaving the people with a new revelation on a familiar Bible story of the adulterous woman. “Why didn’t Jesus punish her for her sins?” Kong asked after illustrating how not one Pharisee found himself worthy to cast the first stone. “It is because He was already on the way to the cross, to take the sin and be executed on her behalf,” he ex-

Continued on Page 14



CHURCH & MISSIONS



CAMP ENCOUNTER



CAMP AMP



LOUD CAMP



CAMP RUN



CAMP PROTÉGÉ



LIMITLESS CAMP



CAMP GREATER

CHURCH & MISSIONS

The Days Of Their Youthv (cont'd from Page 13).

plained. The senior pastor reminded the congregation that Jesus wants everyone to be saved.

YOUTH ON FIRE

The annual June holidays mark the time for the youths in CHC to gather in their various zones and districts for a time of spiritual refreshment and physical challenge at the Emerge Camps. The campers from the nine camps huddle together for three days and two nights, to brave challenging obstacles, get inspired by the Word of God and transformed by His Presence.

The mornings and afternoons of the camps saw the youths sweating it out in different activities organized by the camp committees. In **Camp Unite**, held from Jun 16 to 18, the youths from the district led by Aries Zulkarnain, executive pastor in CHC, gave back to the society in "Faith-in-Action" Day. Using recycled materials, they ran a mini carnival for the clients of Whispering Hearts Family Service Center.

"By the end of the day, I had lost my voice; but it was all worth it," one of the campers, Nicholas Wong reflected. Another event for Faith-in-Action was "Little Things Big Heart," during which, the campers wrote cards and gave apples to service workers all around Singapore. "It was heartening to witness the youths translate what they had been learning about the Great Commission into action,



CN PHOTO: NICHOLAS GOH

The handwoven Emerge Epic Loom represented the tools used by fishers of men—an apt reminder to the youth to keep sharing the Gospel.

making an impact for the Kingdom of God one soul at a time," Wong added.

Loud Camp started on Jun 22 with the youths led by zone supervisor Wayne Choong going to "war" with one another at Sembawang Park in a day filled with games and cheer wars.

On the third and final night of Loud Camp, campers took part in the Vision Run, a tradition of Loud Camp. The campers set aside their fears and overcame obstacles in the run. As they ran towards the finishing point, the campers confessed

the promises of God and declared breakthroughs over their lives.

While the activities made up the fun element in the camp, most of the campers would agree that the night sessions were the real highlight. For **Camp Encounter**, held from Jun 18 to 20, the night sessions comprised creative performances and inspiring messages. The energetic performances put up by the zone's dance crew and drama team drew massive applause from the campers. The entire session hall reverberated with fire and passion of the campers from the zone led by pastor Edmund Tay, as they danced and jumped unreservedly while praising God. The sermons, delivered by cell group leader Lee Seow Shi and Tay, brought about a strong move of God: broken hearts were mended, chains were broken and lives were touched anew. Both nights ended with the youths coming before God on bended knees in sweet abandon and total surrender.

The youths from four zones in the district led by CHC pastor, Wu Yuzhuang had expectancy for growth in their spiritual foundation and hunger for a move of God in their lives when they attended **Camp Run** 2015 from Jun 14 to 16. The presence of God was evident in all five sessions led by the different zone supervisors and pastors as many campers worshipped God on their knees. The young campers were empowered by the Word preached during the sessions and each of them left with their characters molded, attitudes fine-tuned and values challenged.

One of the campers, Bethany Ng, who attended **Camp AMP** remembered how a sermon preached by CHC pastor, Choong Tsih Ming, broke the walls she had built around herself and she stood forward during the altar call.

"I had never experienced the Holy Spirit in full measure, but that afternoon, I did. If anything in this camp had been the perfect example of what youth camp is supposed to be, that moment would be it," she reflected. The camp held from Jun 14 to 16 saw almost 400 youths from zones led by CHC pastors Lee Yi Lun and

Jeremy Choy, and zone supervisors Veronica Tang, Pauline Kong and Ee Boon Kiat, attending the camp.

Many of the camps were anchored by themes that were inspired by the Word of God. **Limitless Camp**, organized by the zones led by CHC pastors Tan Yah Lan and Kenneth Sim, had the theme "Give Me This Generation," based on 1 Peter 2:9-10 (MSG). Justine Lee, 24, the camp commandant explained: "Instead of just asking God to give us personal breakthroughs, we felt it was time to ask Him for what really matters—people. Limitless 2015 aimed to equip young people to be God's vessels and to be limitless in our generation!"

Camp Protégé organized by MJ zone, led by CHC associate pastor Lim Meng Chin, aimed to take the youths on a deeper and more intimate journey with God. The theme of this year's camp, held from Jun 26 to 28, was founded on Philippians 3:13-14, which says that the essence of the Christian life being one big pursuit, to press toward the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

The Bible story of Elisha crossing

"I had never experienced the Holy Spirit in full measure, but that afternoon, I did. If anything in this camp had been the perfect example of what youth camp is supposed to be, that moment would be it."

~ Bethany Ng, LYL Zone

over into his destiny when he picked up Elijah's mantle and struck the waters, inspired the theme for **Camp Greater**, organized by zone supervisor, Ong Wei Ren. The youth learned that when they arise to take up the mantle from their mentors and assume ownership of the Kingdom, their paths are established and they cross over to their God-given destiny.

Dream Now Camp, organized by the youths under zone supervisor Leila Tan, also saw the next generation rising to the occasion—the worship sessions were led by the zone's youth band, which had members aged 16 to 24.

"The praise and worship was phenomenal, given that our song leaders and musicians are all very young," said Nicole Isabella Tan, 20, the music director of the youth band. "It was heartwarming to see the youths praising and worshipping God."

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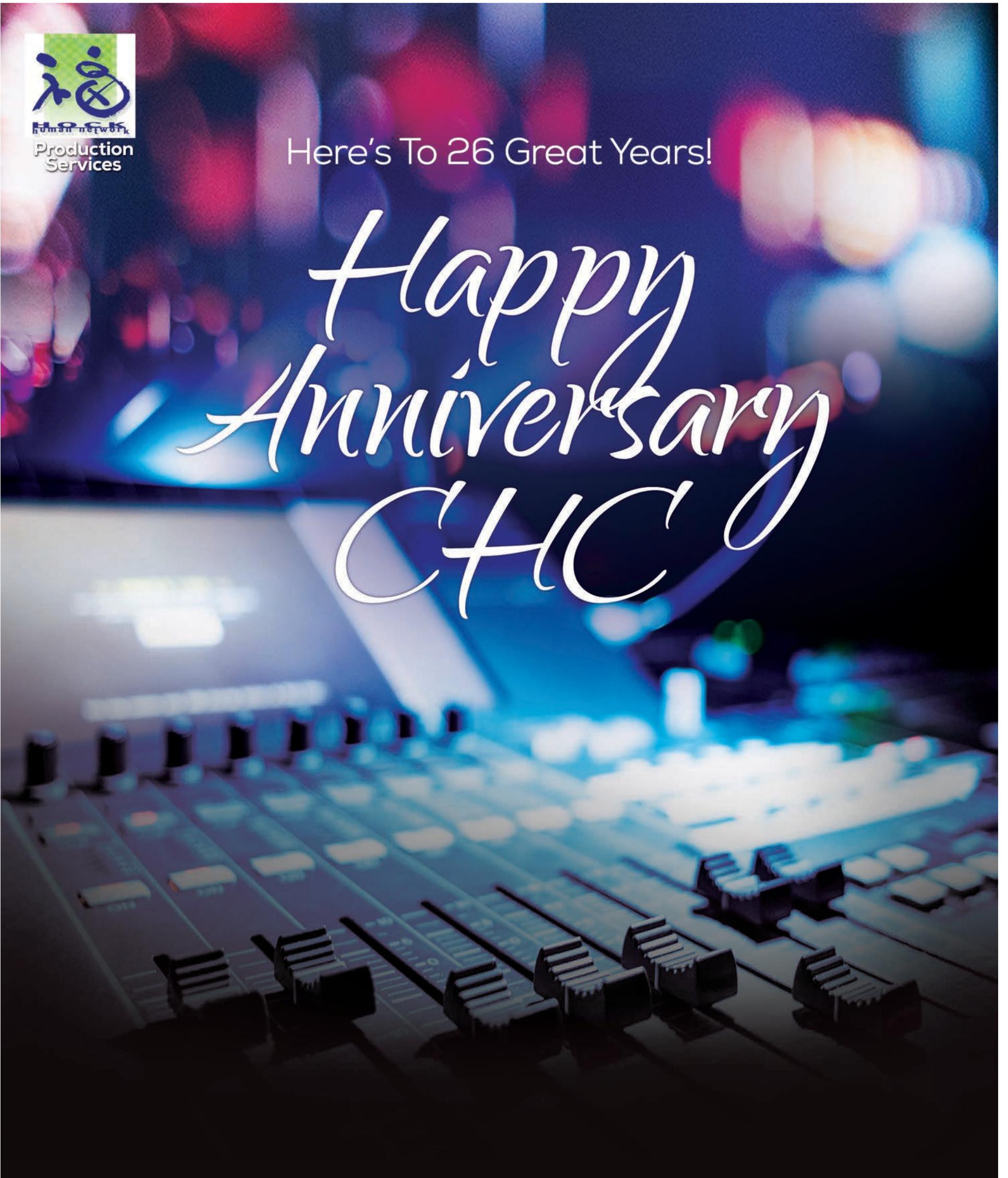
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Here's To 26 Great Years!

Happy Anniversary CHC



COMMUNITY

Caretalysts For Change

University students are coming together in Caretalyt Clubs to create waves of change in the community.

By **VENESSA THOR**

Workers in the service industry, such as fast food restaurant servers, cleaners and sales assistants, take on a lot of hard work, but rarely receive thanks and appreciation. Twelve students from the Singapore Institute of Management decided to change that on Jul 24 this year.

These students from SIM Caretalyt Club gave out messages of appreciation, together with a snack or beverage to 300 service staff. These messages were hand-written by members of the public.

SIM Caretalyt Club president, Melanie Foo, 24, said: "The responses were heart-warming. Initially, the service providers were caught by surprise as they thought we were selling them something. When they realised what we were giving them was something to appreciate them, they were touched. We really wanted to show and tell them that we do appreciate them, and that they deserve a little encouragement."

This event, called "You Matter", was a collaboration between SIM Caretalyt Club and the Tampines Town Council,

supported by the Singapore Kindness Movement. The effort drew the attention of Chinese daily *Lianhe Zaobao*.

SIM's is one of four Caretalyt Clubs, an extension of CityCare Ltd, a not-for-profit organization that promotes volunteerism in Singapore. The four clubs are run by university volunteers at the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University and Singapore Institute of Management. Each club trains student leaders in these four institutions and provides volunteering opportunities for students to help the community.

Doing community work is not mandatory for tertiary students (unlike secondary school students who have to clock community involvement programme hours), yet these university students choose to devote hours of their precious time to serving those around them.

Want to be a Caretalyt? Visit www.city-care.org.sg/caretalyt-clubs-in-schools/



NUS CARETALYST CLUB

NUS Caretalyt Club was birthed in 2009, when nine students came together with a simple desire to touch lives. Since then, NUS Caretalyt Club has become an official club recognized by the NUS Office of Student Affairs. It aims to reach out to students who are busy with studies, but who still want to volunteer and lead community service projects. Standing out from other volunteer CCA groups in NUS, students are encouraged to initiate their own projects and execute them.

"University is a place where young people want to try new things; we want to channel this drive and energy into volunteerism," said club president Germaine Low, 23.

The most recent event they organized was "Project Open Sesame", where volunteers performed and taught magic tricks to terminally-ill children at Arc Children's Centre.

Currently, all the Caretalyt clubs are working on Servathon, City Care's annual community service marathon. Each club will be spearheading a three-hour long event. Eventually, NUS Caretalyt Club hopes to make its annual carnival for the intellectually-disabled, "LOL@Mindsville", part of Servathon.



NTU CARETALYST CLUB

NTU Caretalyt Club began in 2011 with seven volunteers. Since then, it has grown from being virtually unknown to a volunteer pool of 100 NTU students, and a nine-member committee.

Most recently in June, NTU Caretalyt Club organized its largest event to date, called "NOLO (Not Only Live Once)", aimed at leaving a lasting impact on the elderly residing in one-room public house estates in Kembangan and Chai Chee. In that one-day event, over 100 volunteers cleaned up nine homes and organized a carnival for 100 elderly.

NTU Caretalyt Club hopes to become registered as an official NTU

club soon. Volunteers have been participating out of a desire to serve the community with no benefit to their own resume, but not being official makes it more difficult for them to collaborate with other organizations.



SIM CARETALYST CLUB

The youngest of the bunch, SIM Caretalyt began only two years ago. As SIM consists of different universities and timetables tend to clash, it was hard for the volunteers to meet. However, with the help of members and CityCare mentors, SIM Caretalyt Club today has eight regular members.

Despite its modest size, SIM Caretalyt Club has organized events such as "The Golden Years", during which the members visited the elderly at Saint Andrew's Cathedral Home for the Aged.



SMU CARETALYST CLUB

SMU Caretalyt Club is the big brother of the Caretalyt clubs, established in 2008. Its biggest annual event is the YOLO Orientation Camp, which started three years ago and is now one of the most popular camps in SMU.

Another of its flagship events is "Flight of Dreams": underprivileged children write their hopes and wishes on kites and fly them in an act of declaration that dreams and aspirations can come true.

SMU Caretalyt Club recently organized "Project Lighted Hearts" which involved the elderly from Ren Ci Hospital and children from Beyond Social Services and Thye Hua Kwan Moral Society.

"We hope to spread to our freshmen the kindness and joy gained from serving the community, and we hope to recruit like-minded people into SMU Caretalyt Club, to continue our legacy," said Jourdan Poon, 24, president of the club.

Have A Little Soul

With Soul Market, City Harvest Community Services Association brings a little rest-and-relax to Tampines Street 33 (almost) every first Friday of the month. A farmer's market-style gathering of small businesses—think artisanal bakeries, gourmet soups, handcrafted coffees—Soul Market offers a chill-out opportunity at the end of that hectic first week of the month. "We just want everyone to come," says CHCSA's executive director Darryl Loh. "Soul Market is a place for people to meet and converse with others that they never ordinarily would have, over great food and music." Yes, there is a live band each time. Given the small size of POD, the location for Soul Market, entry is by invitation, which one can receive by emailing info@rednose.sg.



CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

COMMUNITY

How To Be The Difference

Christians are called to be changemakers. One of the founders of social enterprise Soule shares his God-given roadmap to creating a business that makes a difference in society.

By **JUSTINE LEE**

“Help yourself before you help others!” “God only helps those who help themselves!”

Have you ever heard such statements before? On the surface, they may seem to make sense. However, such sayings are unbiblical, and they may encourage selfishness. The Word of God clearly states that as Christians we are to help those in need.

James 2:14-17 reads, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister is poorly clothed and lacking in daily food, and one of you says to them, ‘Go in peace, be warmed and filled,’ without giving them the things needed for the body, what good is that? So also faith by itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Growing up in City Harvest Church, I was taught the Caring System which is “to find a need and meet it, to find a hurt and heal it”. The word “find” is an active verb, hence, being the difference in our world is not something passive. In order to see change take place in our community, believers need to initiate and put their faith into action.

SOULE: FAITH PUT INTO ACTION

In 2008, with two other church friends, I started Soule, a social enterprise. God gave us a vision to provide “A Sole for every Soul”, to be a footwear company that sells flip flops and, using the earnings, distributes free school shoes to low-income children in China and locally.

It began with a simple idea, but God has been with Soule every step of the way and He has blessed us tremendously. When Soule first started, many people told us that it doesn’t make sense to commit to a social cause, as it lowers our profit margin. While to others, giving may seem like a disadvantage, God’s Word says



that it is more “blessed to give than to receive”. God wants us not just to be different, but to be the difference.

As we chose to bless others through our business model, the Lord has blessed us in ways that we couldn’t even imagine. In the past seven years, Soule has won numerous grants and awards, and we have also been regularly supported by the media. We have no doubt that this is purely by the grace and favor of God. Soule has evolved from an e-commerce store to include a CSR (corporate social responsibility) consulting arm that helps corporate companies create social impact in the community.

Everything that we have comes from Him and through Him. As we yield ourselves to heed His call, God has never and will never shortchange us.

4 STEPS TO CREATING CHANGE

You may have a desire to make a difference but don’t know how. Here are four simple tips to get you going.

1. Start somewhere

Who doesn’t want to do good? All of us think about it at some point, but things don’t happen just by thinking. The key is to start doing and giving. This is not just limited to giving our money. We can also start giving our time to serve oth-

ers by becoming a volunteer.

MAD (which stands for Making A Difference, www.WeAreMAD.sg) is a volunteer group started by members of CHC that is truly impacting the elderly living in one-room rental blocks in Singapore. Since June 2014, MAD volunteers have been visiting these old folk on a monthly basis to clean their homes, buy them groceries, and quite simply, to bring them joy.

Benjamin Low, co-founder of MAD says that “all of us have 720 hours a month, why not just take out two hours of that time to make a difference in another person’s life?”

You are never too young, too old, or too busy to make a difference. It is never too early or too late to start. You’ve just got to start somewhere.

2. Don’t despise your small beginnings

Mother Teresa once said, “If you can’t feed a hundred people, then feed just one.”

Many people think that in order to make a difference you need to do it big! On the contrary, I have come to realize that most of the time; it is the little things that make a big difference to others.

While distributing shoes at a village school in China, we met a 7-year-old girl. While other kids told us that their dreams were to become teachers, doctors, sing-



PHOTOS COURTESY OF SOULE

(Left) Lee with a Soule beneficiary in China. (Above) Soule volunteers bring the children shoes, socks and new dreams.

ers, or even “the next Bruce Lee”, this girl said that her dream was to have a pencil sharpener. I was caught by surprise. The team searched the entire school to find her a pencil sharpener. When we eventually found one, we went to her class and put it in her hands. I can remember, vividly, the expression on her face. She was so touched she was speechless. Who would have thought that something so small and seemingly unimportant like a pencil sharpener could actually mean the world to another person?

Your small beginnings may seem insignificant but they count. Sometimes, one is all it takes. Even if you just touch one person’s life, you have made a difference. Jesus promised that “if we are faithful with the little, much more will be added.”

3. Have a willing heart

God is not looking for a perfect vessel; He is looking for a yielded and willing vessel.

I remember Pastor Tan Ye Peng once sharing a message from 2 Timothy 2:20-21: “But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honor and some for dishonor. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honor, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.”

When Pastor Tan asked which vessel of honor we wanted to be, it was clear most of us thought the golden vessel would be ideal. But he went on to explain that it didn’t matter if we were gold, silver, wood or clay; rather, what was important was whether we were “useful for the Master.”

Think about it: most of the

items we frequently use are made of humble materials like wood and clay, while the gold and silver things are kept away. In the Old Testament, some of the items in the Tabernacle were made of gold, some wood, some were of wood overlaid with gold. But every single piece of furniture was useful for the Master.

If we want to make a difference, we need to be willing to be used by God. Sometimes, we may not feel like we are a golden vessel or ready to be used by God, but we need to choose to yield to Him.

4. Stay humble

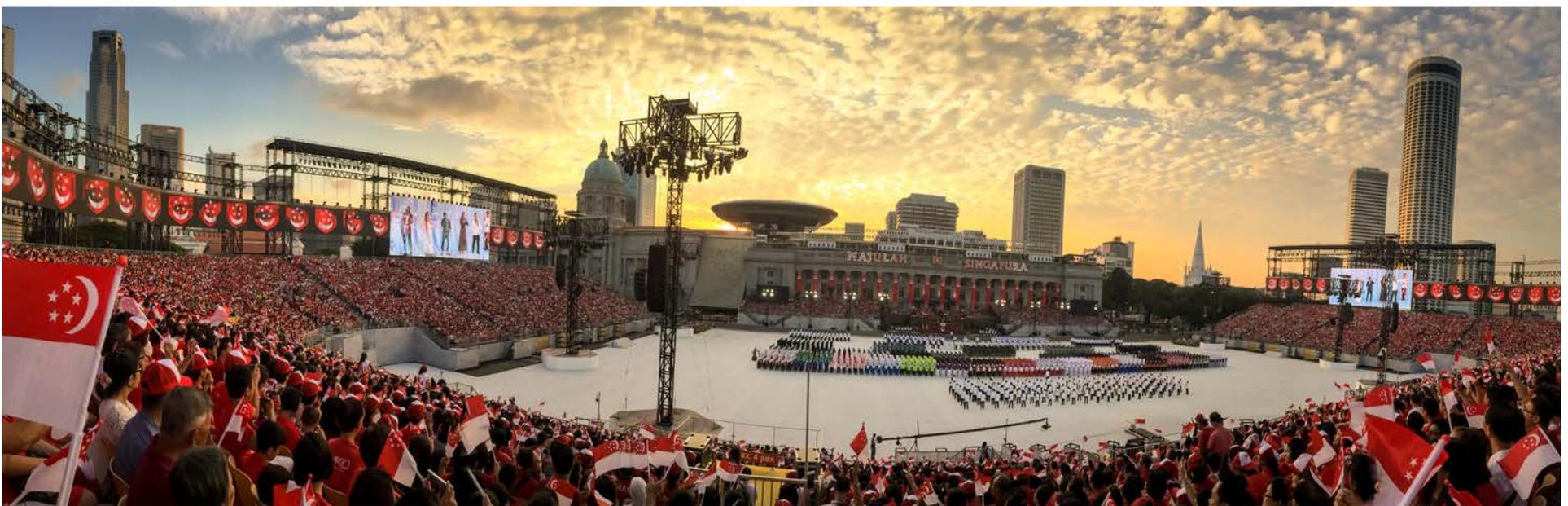
At the end of the day, humility will set apart those who eventually succeed in changing their generation. Humility means acknowledging that you have weaknesses, and that you have chosen to improve. It is about having a moldable heart and a teachable spirit.

Sure, you will make mistakes along the way, but a humble person will never stop learning from every experience—even the painful ones. We will fulfill God’s call for our lives when we choose to lean on Him and not our own strength.

I hope you will be encouraged by the words of the late E M Bounds, Christian author and lawyer: “The church is looking for better methods; God is looking for better men.”

To date, Soule has donated 1,887 pairs of school shoes to low-income children across Asia. The founders have received numerous awards including the 2010 SIF Young Social Entrepreneur Competition, Stars of Shine 2011 and Yahoo Singapore 9, 2012. Read more about Soule at www.soule.com.sg

EYE ON SOCIETY



CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAM

Singapore celebrated its Golden Jubilee on Aug 9, 2015.

Wishes Of A Returning Son

In the last 50 years, we've built the country. In the next 50, we need to build the Singaporean.
By **TERENCE JR LEE**

Harried and alone, I wandered from trashcan to trashcan in the wee hours of the Spanish morning, a stick in each hand. "Is it in here? How about here? Here?" Half-drunk revelers passed me by, mistaking me for one of their own. Hours ago, and steps from safety, I had been robbed, my bag with all my valuables taken from me. Luckily, I still had my phone in my pocket and some money in a pocket. What I was looking for was my passport—my ticket home after four years overseas obtaining my Masters degree in America.

Three hours earlier, I had just stepped off a plane into Spain, en route to an exchange program in London. My plan was to make a whirlwind run: crash on a couch for the night, pick up my luggage in the morning, straight onto a plane bound for London, spend two weeks there and then back to the US of A.

Instead, I had been derailed, forced to search trashcans for a mile in every direction, and confronted by the sleepy nonchalance of Spanish police too polite to tell me I was just another statistic.

In fact, the whole incident fit the profile: "You tourist, yes?" "Yes." "Who rob you?" "Three men, tall." "Dark-looking?" I nodded. "Ah, Marraki... many, many come now, from elsewhere." I shrugged. "You lose bag?" "Yes." "Okay, you write down..."

"Here phone. Call bank. Cancel credit card. Here numbers."

The next day I went to the office of Singapore's Honorary Consulate-General. The paperwork had already been handled via email. Stamp, stamp, sign, and I was done. "Be careful now," and I was out in the

bright noonday sun, travel papers in hand, ready to return home to Singapore.

Singapore prides itself on the fact that things work as they should. The fact that I was back on home soil within 72 hours losing my passport is testament to that. Many nations struggle with things we take for granted—safety, security, clean water, electricity, plumbing, transport and education.

Friends speak with admiration of Singapore's clean streets, of the miles of underground, air-conditioned walkways. They gush over the trees that green the city. Romantics talk about the beautiful skyline, and of the way Singapore has turned swamp into city. Cynics, like my Hungarian classmate, point out the cost: "Yes, yes, but you have no chewing gum, eh?"

In recent years, it seems that the cynics have stolen the microphone. Behind the multitude of issues they raise—single mothers, documentaries, alcohol, smoking, cycling on roads—the message is this: After 50 years of paternalism, we are tired of being treated like children. Stop deciding for us. Stop saying that this is "for your own good." Stop telling us what the "social norms" are. Stop telling us about "Asian values." We have grown up. We can decide. We are ready.

But, are we, really?

I must say I have my doubts. We have built a strong and resilient government and a stable infrastructure. We have trained doctors, lawyers, engineers, civil servants. We have smart people in power and an educated citizenry. Our students' math and science scores consistently rank among the best in the world. We even recycle our own pee.

While the country has overcome its meager circumstances, Singaporeans today aren't the clear-headed problem-solvers they think they are.

On the plane, recently, I sat beside a

Singaporean girl who was separated from her friend seated a row ahead. There were two empty seats beside him. Instead of asking the stewardess if she could change seats, the pair spent the time gossiping

As we go from 50 to 100, my heartfelt wish is for Singaporeans to spend time developing themselves ... political knowledge, respectful discourse, loving disagreement ... we ought to enjoy childhood while we can, but not be afraid of growing up.

about a colleague. When the door closed, and the stewardess seated a French couple, who were similarly separated, on those two seats, the little miss took it personally. "This is what happens when you're not white enough," she said, stiffly.

Not all Singaporeans are passive-aggressive. When the trains and buses failed, and authorities floundered, it was humble Singaporeans who saved the day. Some helped to guide traffic, others ran ferry services. Singaporeans overcame their straitened circumstances with grace, wisdom and charity.

When I was stranded in Spain, I caught a glimpse of this same grace and charity from my fellow Singaporeans, former classmates from secondary school, who let me stay in their apartment, eat their food, sleep on their couch—until I could get my papers sorted out. I am ashamed to say that I did not expect this of Singaporeans; their generosity humbled me. I realized then, that I had become bitter toward the country of my birth, wanting to cast it off, like a too-small set of clothes.

Perhaps, like me, you've forgotten what Singaporeans are capable of. Forgotten that we are more than grouches and complainers, that we are more than *kiasu* kings and queens. Forgotten that though we've moved into nice modern HDBs, that we are from the same kampong. Forgotten that it is these hands that have built the homes we are staying in.

Enough nostalgia. As we go from 50 to 100, my heartfelt wish is for Singaporeans to spend time developing themselves. We should develop skills we have previously neglected, like the skills of citizenship—political knowledge, respectful discourse, loving disagreement. We should move beyond our narrowly-defined "meritocracy" and realize the gifts in every person. At the same time, we should eagerly desire the greater gifts, to continuously strive for improvement. We ought to enjoy childhood while we can, but not be afraid of growing up.

I thank the Lord I'm a part of City Harvest Church. There is a spirit of excellence in this church that we need to carry into society. I pray we never lose it. If we are to be the salt of the earth and the light of the word, we must bring this spirit into everything we do. We have spent the last 50 years putting the bricks and mortar of Singapore together. Let's spend the next 50 building up the Singaporean.

EYE ON SOCIETY

Higher: Beach Edition

City Harvest Church celebrated Singapore's Golden Jubilee on Aug 7—the start of the long weekend—on Tanjong Beach in Sentosa. Over 700 people, including senior pastor Kong Hee and his family, gathered to enjoy the day, laughing and getting to know each other better while building sandcastles, participating in a kickboxing session and competing in a friendly soccer match. Despite the mid-morning downpour, the day out ended on a high note with a sumptuous lunch.



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EYE ON SOCIETY

School For Rough Diamonds

As City College turns 13 this year, *City News Weekly* talks to some of its graduates about what this most unusual school has done for them.

By **THERESA TAN**



CN PHOTO: JASON LEE

(Clockwise from top left) Chen Jianwei, Oon Sok Hoon, Andy Tay, Gloria Wong Yi Shan, Matthew Chua and Jacqueline Lim.

One incident that left a permanent impact on Matthew Chua's life was "the day [my teacher] Ms Selena See tore up my cigarettes and told me to stop wasting my life away. She told me I could do better."

Today, 10 years since he graduated from private school City College, Chua has done better. From being a boy who failed his GCE 'O' Levels, Chua, now a public servant, learned to focus and maintain a positive attitude, two attributes that have helped him succeed in life.

Chua's story is an inspiring one, but it is by no means the only such story to come out of City College. Set up in 2002, City College has built a solid reputation as a school of second chances for 'O' Level students who wish to retake the examinations as private candidates. Year after year, the mainstream media feature the school's successes—graduates with five 'O' Levels distinctions and former Normal Technical students who enter

Law School, among them. City College routinely outperforms other private schools in its students' results.

The distinctive difference City College seems to possess is its unique environment built by its teaching staff, who believe that each student has the desire to excel in life, and that the school must not only impart academic knowledge, but build up life and leadership skills by emphasizing on excellence, ingenuity, integrity and service.

This "formula" has worked for generations of City College graduates, including Gloria Wong Yi Shan, 28, a production coordinator for Chinese dramas at MediaCorp Studios. Wong, who graduated in 2004, came to City College after scoring a total of 30 points for L1R4. "I could not even make it to some of the courses in ITE (Institutes of Technical Education), much less Polytechnic. That was when reality really hit. I was lost and completely clueless at that point," she

recalls. Despite financial difficulties at home and her own lack of knowledge.

She credits her teachers' unwavering attention, patience and encouragement that built her confidence up slowly. "Their creativity in teaching helped to capture my attention and also made subjects easier for me to absorb and learn. And having our teachers sending us individually to our exams hall during our 'O' Level period was one of the sweetest and most encouraging things they did!"

Andy Tay, 26, is currently a second year Electrical Engineering major at the Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD), which was set up in collaboration with the renowned Massachusetts Institute of Technology and has a small, handpicked student population. Today's reality would have seemed an impossible dream when he entered City College in 2007 after his fourth 'N' Levels year at a mainstream school. "At

that point in time I wanted to leave secondary school so badly because of the negative environment I was facing that I enrolled for ITE. After four days I was so disheartened, I decided to withdraw from ITE to pursue music as a career but was told I needed three 'O' Level credits."

Like Wong, Tay experienced the transforming care of the City College teachers. "The teachers had paramount significance in laying the foundation for my academic success and nurturing me into who I am today," he says. "City College gave me opportunities to grow my creativity and thinking skills. I believe it was my experience with the Luoyang Youth Expedition Program that made a real impact on me. It reminded me of how fortunate I was and triggered my thought process on how I can help those needy children."

The greatest lesson he learned at the school, says Tay, was to "see people not as who they are, but as who they can become ... I finally understood why the teachers are so passionate and caring: they believe that every student in City College has the potential to grow and touch many lives."

An aircrew member with Scoot, Jacqueline Lim graduated from City College in 2010. A self-professed rebel who nearly wound up in a reformatory institute for girls for "block-shopping" ("stealing anything that was placed outside the homes of those living in HDB flats"), Lim neglected her studies and failed her 'O' Levels.

"I remember once I didn't do very well in one of the test and 'O' Levels were just two to three weeks away. Instead of stressing me about how badly I did for the test, Ms Selena, our chemistry teacher, stayed back with me and the others till almost 11pm to make sure we understood every single question on the test. She'd been teaching since morning. I was so touched by her love for her students. I wondered why would she even do this for us?"

Chen Jianwei, 32, was one of City College's first students. He had come from a school where he was labelled incorrigible by his teachers, and even his father had low expectations of him. Suffering self-doubt and a fear of failure, Chen nevertheless took up the chance to try again. "I had to unlearn my mainstream way of studying," he said. "I had to embrace new methods, which were to understand what I was studying." From a single digit score for

Principles of Accounting, Chen scored over 80 marks at 'O' Levels. Today, Chen is the founder of SaberMach, a company that specialises in making movie precision props such as illuminated lightsabers.

Oon Sok Hoon, 29, a bank teller with MayBank, struggled with her studies but obtained her 'O' Level certificate after three years at City College, enabling her to fulfill her dream of pursuing

"Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles. But at City College, the teachers see you as a gem that is waiting to be discovered."

~ Jacqueline Lim (2010)

a diploma in Chinese education. "I was about to give up but the teachers were very encouraging and supportive. Mathematics was my worst subject and Mr Koh and Ms Jasmine guided us along very well and provided us with after-class tuition. City College has a very different teaching environment and caring teachers."

Chen has referred six friends to City College and "none of them have regretted the decision to go. I told them this is not like other private schools—the teachers are amazing and the learning environment is unmatched. If you do your part and come to class, you will do well for your 'O' levels. The life skills and attitudes imparted alone are worth your time and fees."

"Society taught me that second chances don't come easy," says Lim, "but City College is truly a place for people who are seeking a second chance. It's okay to be different, it's okay to be ordinary. Rough diamonds may sometimes be mistaken for worthless pebbles. But at City College, the teachers don't look at you that way. They see you as a gem that is waiting to be discovered."

City College offers a nine-month intensive preparatory course for GCE 'O' Levels. To find out more, go to www.citycollege.edu.sg



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MARKETPLACE



CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

They must be related: Amos (left) and Adam Ang share talents and passion for music.

The Ang brothers are leaving their imprint on the music scene with a continuous flow of singles, music videos and their first solo concert.

By **BETHANY NG**

In the short two years since they released their first EP on iTunes, the brothers of Scarlet Avenue, Amos and Adam Ang, have brought their music deep into the marketplace: they've played at countless events, gone on air with many radio stations, penned a theme song for a telemovie called *Two Boys And A Mermaid* and, most momentously, held their first solo concert, Scarlet Avenue Unplugged (see box). *City News Weekly* sits them down for a chat.

You've done loads in the past year: your concert, your singles 'Paper Planes', 'Lighthouse'. What are you most happy with?

Amos: I think we're most happy

about sharing of our music with people. I think this is one of the things we have always looked forward to, so we are happy that during this past one year we were able to get our music out. People are sharing our music videos and we're really happy about it.

Adam: I hope to write more songs to reach out to more people.

Apart from music, what are both of you doing now?

Amos: I'm studying video: filming, learning how to film, how to edit, learning how to direct.

Adam: I'm still in school. I major in guitar at LASALLE. It's fun—everything around me is music.

Did you have to sacrifice anything in order to pursue your dream?

Amos: Not really, because since we were young we dreamed about doing this. So there wasn't much of a sacrifice.

Adam: We just understood there were things we couldn't do so much anymore.

Amos: Because music's more important to us. Maybe the biggest sacrifice is not to eat a lot, to stay in shape. I have to stay in shape. Adam's always in *that* shape.

Adam: My biggest sacrifice is, I guess, time. I'm happy doing it, but having enough time is an important factor as well.

What is your Plan B?

Amos: When I was young, I didn't think of any Plan B, because [music] was my full-on dream. But now that we have grown older, reality check! So my Plan B is creating videos. And maybe singing in a pub?

Adam: I'd probably be a chef—I like to cook. Or a painter. Or a writer.

What would you say is the purpose of your music?

Amos: To make people happy.

Adam: To help them find what they're searching for through our music. Like what music has done for us—we were each able to find something we were looking for in music.

Tell us about your writing process.

Adam: It's balanced.

Amos: It really depends. Like sometimes, I can write the melody—

Adam: There's no one structure. **Amos:** There's really no structure, it's basically free flow. Sometimes we just write the melody and the lyrics at the same time.

Adam: Sometimes, it's like a poem and we would put melody and chords into it. It comes from everywhere.

Let's take 'Lighthouse'. Who wrote the lyrics?

Amos: Adam.

Adam: I wrote the lyrics, and then I showed it to my brother and then we both changed the lyrics together here and there.

Amos: So, I think, when it comes to songwriting, it's kinda like teamwork.

You are both CHC members—how has your faith helped you? Do you serve in church?

Amos: I serve in my cell group. I started as a cell group guitarist,

then I did refreshments and song sheets. Now I'm serving in the worship team.

Adam: I was a cell group guitarist.

Amos: He was a connect group leader.

Adam: Yeah. So having our faith, it keeps us sane, it keeps us planted in the crazy industry. It keeps us rooted.

Amos: It gives us value checks.

Adam: It gives us faith.

If you could choose any artist in the world, dead or alive, who would you most like to record/perform with?

Amos: We have so many idols. Green Day. I wanna sing with Green Day. Green Day was the first band we held as idols.

Adam: I wanna sing with U2. John Mayer. Ben Howard. BB King.

Amos: The list could go on.

What is your advice to anyone who wants to start in the music industry?

Adam: Go for it. Get a good producer. Write songs, keep on writing.

Amos: Get a good record label.

Adam: Post videos on YouTube. Just start somewhere.

Amos: You only have one life to live so you might as well live it.

Your iTunes and Spotify accounts have followers from all over the world. Where from and do they write you fan mail?

Adam: They write fan comments. It's nice to see some of them come from Indonesia and the US.

Amos: I've received some from Australia, the Philippines, France.

Do you have any greetings for the church?

Amos: Thank you City Harvest for your love and support.

Adam: We are happy to be part of this family.

Unplugged Charm

The Ang brothers' first solo gig showed their development as performers.

By **ELEANOR TAN**

Singapore duo Scarlet Avenue proved winsome performers as they entertained their fans at an intimate concert on Jul 16. Peppering their performance with casual ex-

changes with the crowd, brothers Amos and Adam Ang performed a mixture of their own songs as well as covers from American band Green Day, whose songs they used to rehearse in front of their father every night for two hours.



PHOTO COURTESY OF UNITED RECORDS

Laughter abounded as they shared the stories behind some of their songs: Amos revealed that 'Girl Next Door' was about was a blossoming romance between him and a girl who lived next door to them when

they were growing up in France. However, an unlikely romance also flourished between the same girl and Adam.

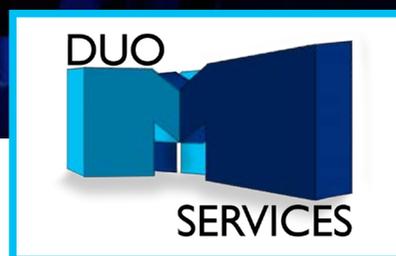
The highlight of the night was when the boys sang their latest single 'Lighthouse'. Amos explained: "In life, when you lose your way and you lose joy, you need a lighthouse to guide yourself back home. Sometimes you forget who your loved ones are." Each each shared what brotherhood meant—standing up for one another and covering each other's mistakes.

The duo's songwriting skills were also put to the test. Each brother had to draw two words from a jar filled with slips (the audience wrote random words before the show) and compose a song on the spot using those words. Needless to say, there was much hilarity as they attempted to weave "pineapples" and "lamb" into a song.

It was a fun, laidback and most memorable night that marked a milestone for Scarlet Avenue.

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LIFESTYLE

Humans Of CHC

Reuel Eugene Tay, who started the Facebook page “Humans Of CHC”, presents a collection of candid tales from members of City Harvest Church.



“I’m so blessed by each and every interview with the members. Some of their stories are humorous, some heartbreaking, some tragic, some inspiring. It’s impossible to know every single individual in the church. But through HOCHC, we can find kindred spirits in strangers who share in our victories or have gone through similar struggles.”

Reuel Eugene Tay, 26

“I thought of bringing my mom to church. She told me that she went to church last year and seems to be more open [to the Gospel] now. I’m keeping her in prayers and praying for her salvation because if she is saved, the whole family will also be saved.”

Sim Yi Jing, 25



“Work hard in your life. While you’re still young, do your best. I feel I could have done more in my life. I guess I could have done better in school. I procrastinated a lot.”

Saptarshi Nag, 25



“I have blurred vision on my left eye and can’t really see very well. When people bump into me and snap at me, asking if I am blind, I can’t just say that “Yeah, I am” right? It is really difficult for me but I hang on. I continue to serve and kept on praying, believing in God for healing.”

Cassandra Oh, 40



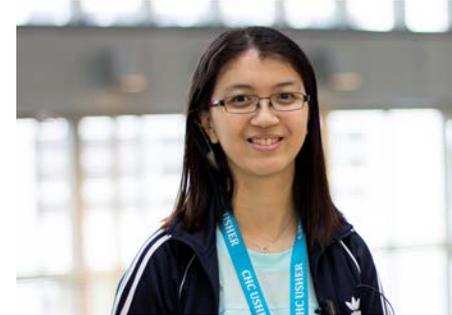
“There were no cars, no people, and I was alone. It would have taken me 30 seconds to die because they were really smashing me with all those clubs, batons, anything they had in their hands. When I called ‘Police!’, they laughed. And then it just came out of me: ‘In Jesus’ name! In Jesus’ name!’ Seriously, in that moment everything froze. Those guys were violent, they were shouting, but in that moment they didn’t even speak to each other. They pulled my phone out of my pocket, then they got on their bikes and left.”

Marcin Marczak, 35



“There were more than a hundred decisions for Christ yesterday (May 29, 2015). Pastor Bobby Chaw said that there is a revival fire in the 2015 batch of SOT students. He prayed that it will spread to the whole of City Harvest so that the church will once again see revival.”

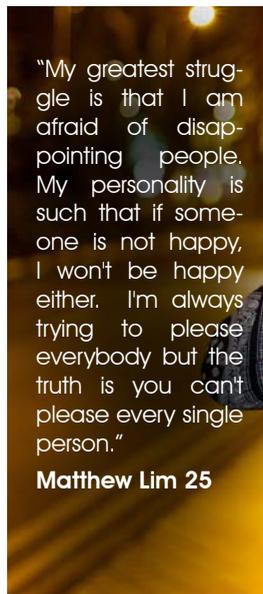
Yeh I Wen, 32



“What’s your greatest joy serving as an usher?”

“To serve and bring smiles to the members. We help them when they need our help and whenever we can. For me, I’m happy to serve the Lord in this capacity. When the members are happy, I’m happy.”

Lin Xue Fang, 29



“My greatest struggle is that I am afraid of disappointing people. My personality is such that if someone is not happy, I won’t be happy either. I’m always trying to please everybody but the truth is you can’t please every single person.”

Matthew Lim 25



“My brother and I lived out of a luggage bag at my aunt’s place. I remembered that one time at the void deck, I made this prayer, ‘God, if this is Your only way to bring me back closer to You, then let Your will be done.’ You know that there are prayers that just shape your life?”

Tan Yang Er, 22



“The doctor was kind of shocked that I didn’t pass away the year after he saw me. He then asked me to try this new surgery that gave me a chance to be completely healed. Now I can take it all, I can do whatever I want. I can just be like a normal human being now.”

Jovan Yong, 23



“I have been coming to church since World Trade Centre days. When CHC first started, it was a very small ministry made up of mostly youths. They were doing street witnessing and I kind of got close to some of them. I don’t see myself being neglected by the church or dumped one side because I’m in a wheelchair.”

Patrick Ang, 41

LIFESTYLE



"My granddaughter Naomi was born into very difficult family circumstances. I have carried Naomi to church every weekend since she was a few months old. God reminded me that all those prayers I made for my son to love Him were not in vain—they were transferred to Naomi. I'm also thankful that she is so well loved by the church members."

Shirley Ng, 56, and Naomi, 5



"My parents got divorced three years ago after many years of marital conflict, and I had to rent a place to stay outside. But God was so good! My first place was a condo and the landlord, who was a complete stranger, let me have the room for free! Through all this, I know that no matter what I go through, God will never let me down."

Siang Li Ting, 24



"My mom had a high risk knee surgery last year. My ministry head, William visited my mom and even gave me another doctor's contact for a second opinion. I was really touched. Despite their busyness, our leaders still showed concern. It's through this that we see their heart."

Adelene Chan, 25



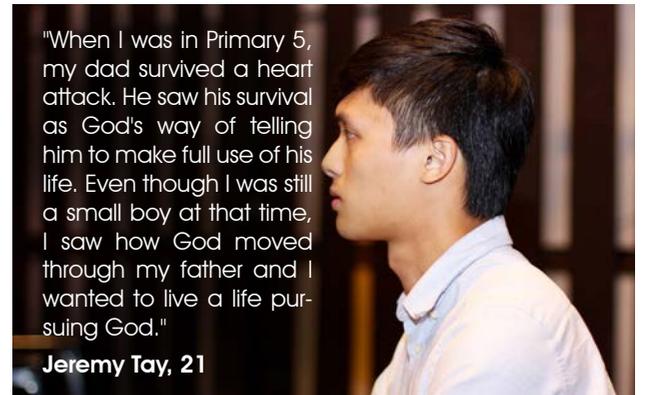
"We attended Christian City Church in Australia and City Harvest Church after we moved here. The church has benefited me and I really want to tell people about God. But the sharing is sometimes done awkwardly and I feel that I'm not very good at it."

Frederic Baudin, 42



"I met a Malay trainee who was going through a tough time. He was attending another church and was kicked out by his family. In the army, I was able to speak into his life and be an outlet for him to pour his troubles to. Today, the Malay trainee is reconciled with his family and is still a believer!"

Shawn Goh 24



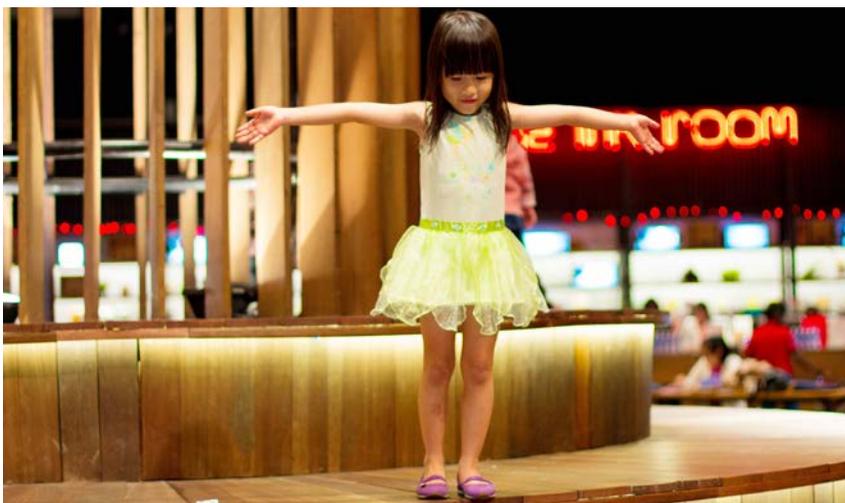
"When I was in Primary 5, my dad survived a heart attack. He saw his survival as God's way of telling him to make full use of his life. Even though I was still a small boy at that time, I saw how God moved through my father and I wanted to live a life pursuing God."

Jeremy Tay, 21



"What is your biggest regret?"
"My father. That I did not spend enough time with him. When I got my driving license, I kept thinking that I could get a car and fetch or drive my parents around next time. But in the end, I did not have the opportunity to drive him around."

Andy Ang, 26



"What do you want to be when you grow up?"
"I want to be a teacher. Because I learn a lot of things... And I want to teach others!"

Vera Tan, 5

*In memory of Lee Wei Kee,
by Zhang Tingting, 25*

"How was I to know that Sunday would be my last goodbye to you as I asked you to go home. "Can I hold your hand? Can I talk to you? Can I join your CG? Can I join E357?" Strange to say this now, but I will miss hearing your familiar voice calling me, asking me the same questions over and over again every weekend."

Lee Wei Kee, who had autism, passed away on July 30, 2015. He came to CHC in 2008 through JAMs (Jesus For All Minds) church but became a fixture at the English service. He was fondly called "Superman" by church members.



LIFESTYLE

Huang Qi Shan: Finding God



CN PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

“China’s Mariah Carey” Huang Qi Shan talks about the journey that led her to Christ—and to fame.

By **DAWN SEOW** (Interview by Chen Ying Jie, City Radio)

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For 27 years, her labor in the entertainment industry was in vain. But her tenacity and her obedience to God shot her to fame with just one performance.

“The year that I received Christ, I asked Him, ‘You made me a talented singer, so why not give me success as well?’ I never got any answers,” said Chinese singer Huang Qi Shan in an interview with City Radio. “It was not until I stood on the stage of *I Am A Singer* that I realized His purpose for me.”

Debuting in 1986, Huang was considered the “Number One Female Voice in Asia” by professional singers and producers in China. Her powerful vocal performances won her the nicknames “Chinese Mariah Carey” and “Chinese Whitney Houston”.

“Yes, it was a very awkward situation,” she admitted. “It seemed like every one in the entertainment industry knew me but those in the streets had never heard my name.” In 2013, Huang finally received her breakthrough. Her performance in the popular Chinese reality TV competition, *I Am A Singer*, stirred the hearts of the audience. Shortly after, she became one of the most well-known names in China.

“Thankfully, God gave me an obedient heart,” she mused. “He asked me if I would continue following Him if I didn’t receive an answer. I told Him I would, and I did. That was how He eventually led me to the stage of *I Am A Singer*. At that moment, standing on that stage, I was filled with such gratitude toward God. I realized that in the midst of studying in Bible school, I had learned to let go of my earthly desires and I learned the real essence of singing. I realized that in all those years (as a singer), I loved recognition more than singing itself. I loved the fame and the things that being famous entitled me to. When I slowly began to understand that singing has nothing to do with all these, I no longer yearned for the applause of men.”

Huang recognized now that the condition of her heart needed to be right before she could receive her success. “If I had not gone through the journey and developed my relationship with Christ before becoming famous, I believe I would have backslidden. This is human nature.”

FINDING HERSELF IN GOD

Huang told the story of how she became a fervent Christian and a Bible school student in Singapore’s Baptist Theological Seminary.

It all started in 2003 when she had thoughts of suicide. “The next morning, God sent a sister, a well-known mainland Chinese actress, He Qing, to share the Gospel with me. As I listened to her, I felt that someone cared about me, and I felt loved. So when she invited me to church that Sunday, I went.”

Huang started attending church and was baptized a year later. But she continued in her old ways and eventually backslid and left church. Looking back,

Huang realized that she did not really know God and the Bible, and that was why there was no significant change in her life.

“In 2009, I felt that it was time to go home. I’d spent enough time roaming in the ‘wilderness’. I guessed God allowed me to spend five years in the ‘wilderness’ so that I would have this yearning within me to return to Him (laughs). As I got down on my knees to pray, God sent another sister, Lu Li Ping, and she brought me back to church.”

Three months later, a Bible School in Xiamen opened for registration and Huang was led by God to sign up for the course. “That was how I started my journey as a student again at 40 years of age. It was as if God was telling me, since you didn’t like to study when you were young, you’ll have to study now.” Huang spent three years at the Bible School studying Gospel music.

She then went on to take up another course at Singapore’s Baptist Theological Seminary in 2012 to study theology. It was at this point that she was asked to take part in *I Am A Singer*; she was reluctant because she needed to be in Singapore for classes.

“I rejected them in the beginning because I had to come back to Singapore for classes. But the director of the show, Hong Tao, kept telling me that I had to participate in this competition. I’m very grateful for him; I guess God was using him to bring me into the show. I gave him a solution at that time—to put me in only two episodes. My thinking at that time was that if one episode could bring in RMB800,000, then I would have RMB16,000 to pay for my rent, school fees and living cost in Singapore. It was really that simple to me at that time.

“I believe God was opening doors for me. The director told me that he couldn’t allow that. The competition had to go on. So I said to him, just kick me out of the competition at the second episode,” she laughed.

As God would have it, Huang joined *I Am A Singer* in 2013 and rose to national fame overnight. That year, she was named “Best Chinese Singer” at the 10th annual Huading Awards in China.

“Coming back to the house of God caused me to think: we have a relationship with God, but how deep does the relationship go? Who is God? What is Jesus like? That is what we are studying in theology. The attitude behind going to Bible school goes beyond the question of whether we are willing to give our lives fully to Christ, or if we are willing to become a disciple. It boils down to the kind of choices you make every day. For example, coming to CHC that weekend was a challenge for me. I had a commercial gig that I rejected just so I could come. I told my team leader, commitment is the foundation of your character. Once we have made a promise, even if temptation (to make money) comes, I will choose to do the right thing.”

天耀中华

—记2015中华复兴领袖研习会

城市丰收教会于6月19至21日在新加坡新达会议中心举办中华复兴领袖研习会，聚集了300名中国、香港、澳门和台湾的教会领袖。

蒋晓亭 报道



郭恒志摄

中华复兴领袖研习会聚集了中国、香港、澳门和台湾的教会领袖探讨教会成长与复兴之道。

城市丰收教会从上世纪90年代起已经对中华地区抱有极大负担，数据显示教会在这十几年来到该地区宣教超过700趟次。因着这样的负担，教会今年特别举办了中华复兴领袖研习会。该研习会于6月19至21日在新加坡新达会议中心举办，聚集了中国、香港、澳门和台湾的教会领袖，同时也开放给这些地区的会友与神学生参加；与会者一共约300名。

城市丰收希望以这场研习会祝福海内外的与会者。与此同时，教会主任牧师康希在开幕时也分享到：他今年在香港与香港基督教协进会执行董事陈剑光博士见面时得到了新的看见——陈博士坦承城市丰收已为中华地区付出许多，现在，神也将大约100万名中国人带到新加坡；他们到这里旅游、工作、读书等，教会何不抓此机会接触移居到新加坡的中国人呢？这也是该研习会的另一目的——鼓励新加坡的会友积极接触我们周围的中国邻舍。

康牧师在研习会的第一天分享城市丰收成长和复兴的秘诀；他叙述自己和妻子何耀珊于1997年在夏威夷遇见上帝的经历。神从马太福音22：37-40向他启示，神主要的旨意和教会存在的目的就为赢得灵魂，城市丰收“全心爱神、热切爱人”的使

命也取自该经文。再来，康牧师透过“好撒玛利亚的比喻”和城市丰收的关怀系统方式向在座的听众分享如何有效的赢得灵魂——教会如何“找到需要满足它、找到伤害医治它”。透过实际的行动，教会到社区里满足人们的需要，以上帝的爱来接触他们，最终赢得他们信基督。

研习会上分享的另一主题则与文化职任有关。文化职任是城市丰收教会的核心支柱之一；康牧师传讲“第三重领域的基督信仰”——基督徒要如何在职场里作盐作光，带下神的同在与品格。第一日的晚间聚会是整个研习会的亮点——康牧师分享的是“圣灵与第四度空间”的信息。康牧师在该聚会上教导领袖们如何欢迎圣灵进入他们的生命，来掌管他们的思想、异象梦想、信念和口里所说的话。他表示，活在第四度空间里对领袖而言是关键。除了聆听振奋人心的信息之外，与会者更多领受的是圣灵的分赐。康牧师在聚会进入尾声时由衷的鼓励大家一定要回去自己的城市带下复兴；他也特别为在场的全职同工与牧师按手祷告。与会者皆感受到圣灵强烈的恩膏与同在，因着康牧师的分享和分赐，许多人的异象得更新，此后背负着全新的使命，立志要在各自的城市为神行大事。

第二天，康牧师也教导青年事工与流行文化的关系。他挑战在座的教会领袖，如果要看见教会持续的成长，青年事工是关键，因为青少年是教会和世界的未来。他也鼓励大家流利的使用流行文化的语言来接触年轻人，赢得这个世代。

在接下来的聚会中，康牧师与陈博士的分享有异曲同工之妙——皆是挑战大家“领导”的生命。康牧师教导讲道的大能为何，并将自己这些年来在讲道上实践的技巧和秘诀与大家分享，而且挑战领袖们一定要花时间和心思准备每一篇道；当牧者寻求神，锻炼自己成为好的传道人，神可以使用他来改变他的世代。另一场聚会的焦点则是放在领袖心智的力量上。康牧师分享到，领袖们常常会面对外在的迫力、困难和挑战，如何做“四面受敌，却不被困住；心里作难，却不至失望？”其中的关键取决于牧者心智的力量。康牧师鼓励大家透过每日正面的更新思想和自我肯定来锻炼其心智，唯有心智刚强，领袖才能为神的国度成就大事。

周六下午的聚会由陈博士负责主讲。陈博士是香港基督教协进会的执行董事，其学术成就斐然，也是位备受敬重的基督徒领袖，而且他对中国基督教的动向拥有宏观的视野。他以中文分享天国领导气质的信息——领袖应该以谦卑为可贵、以扶弱为重

任、以合一为目标。

第二日的最后一场聚会是城市丰收教会的周末聚会。该聚会也是一场布道会，尤其针对那些移居到新加坡的中国人而办。该聚会有许多特别项目；其中之一是教会歌手演唱何沐阳所著的《天耀中华》，与此同时，中华地区也有代表展示各地区的特色，其视听效果让在场的观众无不赞叹。另外，台湾创作歌手罗文裕也演绎了两首歌曲。在康牧师分享神的道之后，舞台前站满了许许多多回应呼召的新朋友，当中不少是教会会友接触的中国、台湾、香港与澳门的朋友。

研习会的最后一日也是父亲节。在这特别的日子，教会准备了一出轻松幽默的戏剧，在向父亲致敬的同时，也提醒会友们多多关心和孝敬家中的父亲。康牧师以五个代表父亲的汉字——父、爸、翁、爹、爷——来表达父亲五个角色的本质，并且鼓励父亲和未来父亲了解其身份的重要性。

这次的研习会以最后一场问答环节作为完美落幕；康牧师亲自回答与会者的问题。会众提出的问题范围甚广——包括建立教会的问题、门徒训练、如何胜过个人挑战等。最后，康牧师为在场的领袖和牧者们作祝福祷告，让大家带着满满的祝福回去各自的城市和岗位，并且准备好为耶稣影响这个世代！

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