



CITY NEWS WEEKLY

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PHOTO: BERNARD YEO

"No turning back": The young people who started City Harvest Church with senior pastor Kong Hee embarked on an unstoppable mission 25 years ago.

WE BUILT THIS CITY

City Harvest Church is a church that has been built, piece upon piece, person by person over the last 25 years. *City News Weekly* looks back at its foundation years through the eyes of its members.

By **THERESA TAN**

The theme for this year's anniversary celebration—CHC's 25th year, its Silver Jubilee—is "Because Of You".

The "You" refers to God. It also refers to those who obeyed the call to start this

church, and it refers to those who built it—the church members.

Despite its glossy corporate image, CHC is very much a people church, says Serina Perera, who joined the church at

the age of 16. "Our credo from Day One has been to love God wholeheartedly and to love people fervently," she explains. "It was each member reaching out to another person, one to one. That's how the church was

built and still is being built." Today, Perera is a fulltime staff member of the church and also a worship leader.

Continued on Page 2

Eat Well. Play Smart.

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CITY HARVEST CHURCH !!

HAPPY 25th BIRTHDAY

CHURCH & MISSIONS

WHAT'S HAPPENING THIS WEEKEND



Welcome to our 25th anniversary services! God has been exceedingly good to City Harvest, and this weekend, we thank and praise Him! We pray that you will experience the love of God through His presence as well as the warmth of our friendship!

If you're new here, Sun and I would very much like to invite you to The Hot Spot (our Visitors' Lounge) after the service, where our friendly greeters and pastoral staff would love to get to know you over a cup of coffee. While you're there, feel free to pick up a CD of today's sermon as a little complimentary souvenir from us for your visit to our church.

To make your visit with us more enjoyable, we have designated priority seating in the hall for first-time visitors; the elderly and pregnant women; the hearing-impaired who require sign language interpretation and those who are physically-challenged. There are Children's Church

services happening concurrently with our Main Service. Do approach our ushers or staff at the reception counter for more information.

Keeping you connected with City Harvest and all our happenings is important to us! Visit us online at chc.org.sg for the latest event updates, interesting information about our congregation and our functions as a Christian ministry.

Till we have the chance to meet you face to face, thank you once again for joining us to worship God as a church family. We believe that God will touch you deeply and draw you closer into His loving embrace.

Blessings,

Kong & Sun

MAIN CHURCH (ENGLISH SPEAKING)

Jul 26 (Sat) 5 p.m.
Jul 27 (Sun) 10 a.m.

Suntec Singapore
Level 6, Halls 601-604

Services with Kong Hee

There are **Harvest Kidz** services running concurrently with our Main Church services:

Age Group: 2 Level 6 • Room 606-A
Age Group: 3 Level 6 • Room 606-B
Age Group: 4 Level 6 • Room 606-C
Age Group: 5-6 Level 6 • Room 606-D/E
Age Group: 7-8 Level 7 • Room 606-F
Age Group: 9-10 Level 7 • Room 606-G
Age Group: 11-12 Level 7 • Room 606-H

JKIDZ Level 7 • Room 606-J

NURSERY Age Group: 0-24 months
Level 6 • Hall 605, Various Baby Rooms

CHINESE CHURCH

Combined with Main Church services

Suntec Singapore
Level 6
Halls 601-604

DIALECT CHURCH

Jul 27 (Sun) 4 p.m.

1 Jurong West St 91
Basement 4
Main Auditorium

HARVEST KIDZ

Jul 26 (Sat) 11 a.m. & 1 p.m.

Suntec Singapore
Level 6
Hall 606 Theater

INDONESIAN SERVICE

Combined with Main Church services

Suntec Singapore
Level 6
Halls 601-604

FILIPINO SERVICE

Combined with Main Church services

Suntec Singapore
Level 6
Halls 601-604

JAMs CHURCH

Jul 27 (Sun) 11 a.m.

1 Jurong West St 91
Basement 4
Main Auditorium

Be Part Of Our Family

If you are interested in joining a cell group, please refer to our cell group directory at chc.org.sg, or contact our corporate office at (65) 6737-6266.

For more information on Bible studies and other ministries in CHC, please approach our friendly receptionists.

Please log on to our website at chc.org.sg to find out more about our church and upcoming events.

CITY HARVEST CORPORATE OFFICE

Address: 8 Temasek Boulevard, Suntec Tower Three, #08-01 to 03, Singapore 038988
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OPENING HOURS

Tuesday - Friday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Saturday: 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Sunday - Monday: Closed

MAILING ADDRESS

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IN AN EMERGENCY

Contact our pastoral worker at (65) 8121-0302 for immediate assistance.



CITY HARVEST

We Built This City (cont'd from Page 1).

Kong Hee, the founder of CHC, was serving as a youth leader at Marine Parade Christian Centre (MPCC) at that time. After he preached during a chapel session in Anglican High School in 1986, revival broke out among the youth.

Among those who heard his message was his future wife, Sun Ho, CHC's executive director today. She recalls, "I remember it was a very short session. At the time, I was not a believer and the sermon didn't make a lot of sense to me but I remember being very touched for some reason—of course, looking back now, it was the Holy Spirit. I remember lifting up my hand. After the meeting, I was so shocked that I wasn't the only one who responded, so many of us did. And that was the start of the revival."

Soh Chiew Bee, a civil servant in her 40s, was another one who responded to Kong's altar call that same day. "Pastor Kong was invited by one of our teachers, Mrs Jane Yang, to speak on 'Rock Music and Backward Masking' during that Religious Knowledge lesson. I remember sitting throughout the

lesson thinking, 'They, I don't even listen to such music.' But when this young man gave the altar call, the presence of God was so strong that I found myself responding to the altar call. After the meeting, one of his cell group members followed up on me, and together with many of my close friends—Lillian Cher, Sun, Karen Yeow,



PHOTO: CHC

Kong Hee preaching in the early days. Kenneth Sim (in white T-shirt and glasses) and Joseph Ang (second from right) were youth who became full time pastors in CHC.

Siew Lan, Tian-An—who also responded, I started attending the cell group in MPCC."

Soh and her friends were only the beginning of the revival. The move of God spread to other secondary schools, and soon MPCC was filled with teens every



Harmony Is As Refreshing As The Dew From Mount Hermon (Psalm 133:3)

Congratulations On City Harvest Church's 25th Anniversary

God is always faithful!



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CHURCH & MISSIONS



PHOTOS: SOH CHIEW BEE & MICHAEL CHAN

From left: Soh Chiew Bee (first from right), with Kong (center) and Ho (second from right) and Paul Chong (first from left) in the early '90s; Soh assisting Kong during a baptism event; Soh today.

weekend. It was that year—1986—that Kong received a Word from God “to raise up an army of young people who would take this nation by storm, and ultimately go all over Asia to proclaim the message of the Gospel until the Lord returns.”

At that point, Kong’s heart was set on being a missionary and he was about to embark on becoming a staff evangelist with Christ for Asia, a Singapore-based missions



PHOTO: ABISHAG NG

When she was a teen, the parents of Abishag Ng (first from right) objected to her attending church.

organization. However, the youth group he was leading—including his first two cell group members, Choong Tsih Ming and Yong Te-Chong—asked him to continue discipling them in the ways of the Lord. With support and advice from other senior pastors in Singapore, Kong decided to obey God’s call and start a new work. In 1989, Ekklesia Ministry was launched with a group of 20. Their first service at Peace Centre saw an attendance of 135.

THE “GIANT SUNDAY SCHOOL”

Soh, one of the 20, was studying for her A-Levels that first year of Ekklesia Ministry. She remembers the challenges the young congregation faced. “Back then, we had a lot of youths who faced parental objection—we always called it ‘PO’. Some would get caned after returning home from church activities. But the love for God and for the House of God was so great that many would still come, in spite of PO. Most of the members were between 17 and 20. Pastor Kong was the oldest and only working adult. No wonder they called us the ‘Giant Sunday School’.”

Realtor Abishag Ng, 39, first attended Ekklesia meetings when she was a 14-year-old student at Tanglin Technical Secondary School. “I would only attend cell group meetings after co-curricular activities as church service on Sundays were out of the question. Later when church moved to World Trade Centre in 1991, I grew stronger in my faith and decided to make a stand. I would wake up at 5am on Sundays to mop the house, practising and stirring

up courage to say: ‘Dad, can I go to church?’”

Ng would sometimes sneak out to church and her parents would cane her when she returned. “I would encourage myself that these canings were nothing compared to what Jesus had gone through for me,” she says, adding that water baptism drew great objection from parents. “Our water baptism sessions were often interrupted by parents who didn’t allow their kids to be baptized. My classmate’s mom even called the police.”

Despite the obstacles, the young ones persisted and served God with all their hearts. Banker Josephine Lim, 42, who was in Soh’s cell group, recalls serving as an usher at that first service. “In those days, we helped out in everything we could possibly do: we took turns to do physical arrangement—that is, to move the musical instruments and set up the place.” In her cell group, she was the “prayer coordinator”: “I had to call the core members and check if they prayed an hour every day and I would leave a message in Brother Kong’s answering machine with the update every Wednesday,” she remembers.

True to 1 Timothy 4:12 to “Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity”, they took God and the things of God seriously. Says Lim, “We met almost every day because we would be having Bible study sessions with new joiners, which were many on a weekly basis. We would also be doing home visits, street-witnessing and conducting prayer meetings.”

Apart from Kong, the only adult at the start of CHC—



From left: Lim (in blue striped top and black jacket) in church in 1997 with Serina Perera (second from left, foreground); Lim today with her family.

who wasn’t a parent of a youth member—was Paul Chong, 52, who works in CHC’s Harvest Kidz department today. Chong first met Kong when Kong was assistant to Paul Tan, the former principal of Tung Ling Bible School where Chong was attending. “Brother Kong was in his final year in Computer Science at NUS, working part time for Brother Paul Tan. I was 27, a logistics supervisor at a

multi-national offshore gas company. At the time I was a Sunday School teacher at another church. I would attend Brother Kong’s Bible Study classes and cell group at MPCC after going to service at my church.”

Chong is best remembered for his Datsun twin cab truck which became the church’s default vehicle, used for ferrying equipment to and from service and meetings, and to bring members home. Chong served as the senior pastor’s PA and driver at the start of the church on a voluntary basis. Finally, in 1996, “I was the first DFO (duty facility officer) of the church, opening up and locking up before and after service.”

THE LIFE STAGES OF A CHC MEMBER

Educator Chin Khen Theen, 41, fondly recalls attending 7am prayer meetings at Tampines Junior College, led by Sandy Yeo, now CHC’s drama director and Bobby Chaw, now the Dean of CHC’s School of Theology. Coming from a non-Christian family, he could not take part in many of the church activities until he entered National Service, where he became part of the Military Fellowship led by pastor Choong Tsih Ming. He served in the PA (physical arrangement) Ministry, where every Sunday, he carried equipment from the church office at Mackenzie Road at 5.30am to Westin Hotel where the prayer meeting and service were held, and then returned the equipment in the afternoon before preparing to “book in” to camp.

Chin’s life since joining CHC has been shaped by the church, he says. From 1994 to 1997, while he was pursuing his degree at the National University of Singapore’s Science Faculty, he was part of the NUS Campus Fellowship led by pastor Tan Ye Peng, also a Science undergraduate then. “We would have Bible study and discipleship meetings at the NUS Science canteen with Pastor Tan, Yong Fu, Sai Song, Kim Hock, Bobby, Dawn and many others,” he remembers. “Pastor Tan always asked us many thought-provoking questions and sent us back to pray and think.” Chin took over leadership of the Fellowship from Tan in 1996 until 1997.

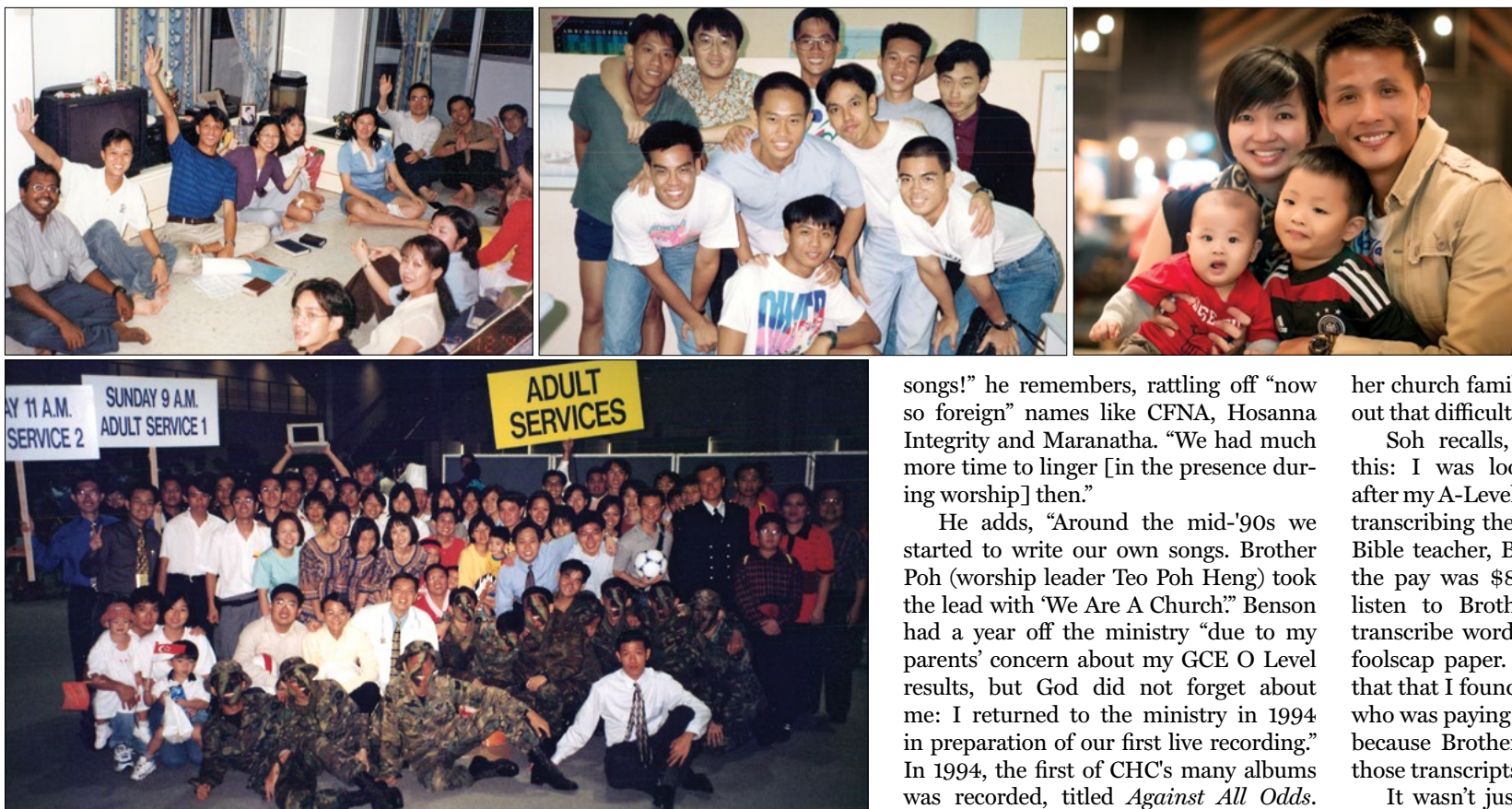
Chin is just one of many pioneers who gave fully of themselves and played a part in every key event of CHC. He was baptized in the waters of East Coast Beach in



PHOTOS: JOSEPHINE LIM & MICHAEL CHAN

1994, attended City Harvest Bible Training Centre (now SOT), led activities in the youth conference Emerge, traveled with Kong and Ho to Surabaya during the Crossover Project as a security detail, and he has been a cell group leader for the last 17 years. Since his first cell group in 1997, Chin has trained up a multitude of cell group leaders who now have their own groups.

CHURCH & MISSIONS



PHOTOS: CHIN KHEN THEEN & MICHAEL CHAN

Clockwise from top left: One of Chin Ken Theen's (in blue) many cell groups; fellowship with pastors Tan Ye Peng and Yong Te Chong (Chin is centre, foreground); Chin with his family today; members of the Adult Service dressed up as people from all walks of life for the Parade of Ministries (International Pastors' School) in 1997.

EVERY MEMBER A MINISTER

CHC's vision statement reads "we are a church... where every member is released into ministry, disciplined in the Great Commandment, to obey the Great Commission and the Cultural Mandate." It is often in serving that CHC members discover their gift or even their calling.

"I was just a regular cell group member till 1994 when I started serving regularly in the music ministry," says Benson Kong, 39, a senior field operations manager for an international company. Benson joined the church when he was 15.

He started out as a trainee in the music ministry. "The trainees would attend weekly music practice and the music ministry prayer meetings. We had physical arrangement duties—setting up and

keeping the musical and sound equipment during practice and services. In fact, I carried equipment for several months before I even played the first note on my saxophone." After one year as a trainee, Benson was put on duty to play for services.

"Most of the musicians were still in school—a number of them from the Anglican High revival—and the oldest were in their early 20s. The band worked tirelessly as we were committed to give the best to the Lord, even if that meant the music practices ended at one or two in the morning at times."

But all that dedication and hard work cemented the bonds between members, and grew the ministry's capacity. "We had one hour-long praise and worship sessions and on some days we would cover over 20

songs!" he remembers, rattling off "now so foreign" names like CFNA, Hosanna Integrity and Maranatha. "We had much more time to linger [in the presence during worship] then."

He adds, "Around the mid-'90s we started to write our own songs. Brother Poh (worship leader Teo Poh Heng) took the lead with 'We Are A Church.'" Benson had a year off the ministry "due to my parents' concern about my GCE O Level results, but God did not forget about me: I returned to the ministry in 1994 in preparation of our first live recording." In 1994, the first of CHC's many albums was recorded, titled *Against All Odds*. Benson played the saxophone in the studio recording.

Benson's gift and faithfulness as a ministry member opened the door for him to work full time in church as the faculty head of the visual arts department at CHC's former School of Creative Arts from 2001 to 2003.

Today, the church still sees the married father of three serving regularly on stage, playing his saxophone. "Fortunately, I am still allowed to 'do my damage' through my saxophone after all these years," he quips. "I picked up guitar and percussion along the way but those are best kept in my closet so that the damage can be contained. God is merciful. Hallelujah."

A TRUE SHEPHERD

From the beginning, as the leader of the church, Kong cared for his members by meeting personal needs. When *City News Weekly* spoke to church members for this story, it seemed his list of good works stretches across decades.

"One thing that Pastor Kong did for me which no one knows is that, when I was in the second year of junior college, he enrolled me in an Economics enrichment class and paid for the \$200 course when my parents were going through a divorce," says Lim, adding that

her church family was her pillar throughout that difficult period.

Soh recalls, "Hardly anyone knows this: I was looking for part-time job after my A-Levels and PK offered me a job transcribing the teaching tapes (!) of his Bible teacher, Brother Paul Tan. I think the pay was \$800 per month. I would listen to Brother Paul's teaching and transcribe word-for-word onto stacks of foolscap paper. It was many years after that that I found out that it was really PK who was paying me out of his own pocket because Brother Paul really didn't need those transcripts."

It wasn't just financial needs that he met. Chin says that over the years, the words spoken to him by Kong have shaped his life and blessed him. "Around 2000, Pastor Kong shook my hand and called me 'Khen Theen, teacher extraordinaire,'" he remembers. "It became like a *rhema* word to me as an educator."

In 2008, during Christmas, Chin and his wife availed their home to Kong's discipleship group. "Pastor prayed for us to have a child—we were married in 2001—and the following year Wan Ee became pregnant and Egan was born in March 2010 and Eben in Feb 2014."

25 YEARS AND MANY MORE TO COME

If 25 years ago, these pioneers had been told that the church they helped to build would lead more than 130,000 people to Jesus through a mission using secular music called the Crossover Project, and that this very mission would see the church come under fire and its leaders in court, what would have been



CHURCH & MISSIONS

their reaction?

“I would have thought ‘Wow, so exciting! I want to be a part of this!’” says Ng. “Because that was the kind of thing that happened last time. We had water baptism in East Coast Beach and we had to do it chop-chop before the police came. So we all knew the danger of putting our leaders in a position of crossing the law while doing the right thing spiritually. Many of us were teens, we didn’t get our parents’ permission to be baptized. But we did it because it was for the God’s cause. If we had to pay the price for populating God’s kingdom, we just had to pay it.” The church later started giving out consent forms to members under 17 who sought to be water baptized.

Lim offers a philosophical take. “We went through a stage in the very early days when we encouraged our members not to watch movies and to destroy all secular music we owned because we were at an impressionable age,” she recalls. “Fast forward 15 years: Sun is launched into the secular music industry. Were we entirely wrong 15 years before? To some, yes. To others, setting ourselves apart from worldly entertainment was a learning journey: it taught us to consecrate ourselves and to put away distractions.”

Truth is: the ongoing trial involving senior pastor Kong Hee and his team has sifted the congregation. Some have moved to other churches, many have stayed, new people have joined the church. But in CHC, the cell groups, the ministries, the prayer meetings have all carried on. The good works of the church and its affiliates—helping communities in Singapore and overseas—have not stopped.

“CHC is family,” declares Benson. “I do not walk out on my family just because we are going through a hard time. When I walked through the hard times in my life, CHC was there for me and I will do the same for my CHC family.”

Soh says that two things have kept her in CHC all these years: the presence of God during worship, and the revelations of God during preaching. “I think we will be here for the next 25 years, and more,” she says. “We’ve learned from Scripture that it is ‘normal’ for the church to go through trials

and tribulations. Whatever can be shaken will be shaken. For those who left CHC and went to another church I believe God has a purpose for them there. For those who have backslided I pray that one day they will return to God and go back to church, be it another church. We are not the ‘only true’ church in Singapore. We are who we are, according to God’s plan and purpose for CHC. I don’t think we are the perfect church. We don’t always get it right. I believe those of us who choose to stay in CHC will reap the rewards, through the messages, the worship, the fellowship and all.”

Each member has a wishlist for the next 25 years of CHC’s existence. Lim looks forward to the church learning from and growing out of its challenges. “I would be very disheartened if we do not learn and undo the mistakes we know of. No corporation as big as ours is without adverse news, but how we handle and grow out of it will differentiate us.”

“Were we entirely wrong 15 years before when we destroyed all secular music we owned? To some, yes. To others, setting ourselves apart from worldly entertainment taught us to consecrate ourselves and to put away distractions.”

~ Josephine Lim

Soh’s wish is to see CHC “continue to grow in number so that more can come to the saving knowledge of Christ, and to grow in our impact in the marketplace.” Benson echoes this: “I pray we will be blessed to be a blessing as we continue to make disciples of all nations. Remember, the best days are still ahead of us.”

As the founder of CHC, Kong Hee’s

prayer for the church is “that our members will never lose the vision of loving God and loving souls. I think when all is said and done, whether we are a teenager, or we are working adults or in our vanguard years, we must never lose sight of the fact that all of life is about loving God, loving people and loving souls. My prayer is that our church will keep on winning the lost locally and all around the world. That’s our calling.”



PHOTOS: BENSON KONG & MICHAEL CHAN

From left: Saxophonist Benson Kong in 1994 with worship leader Calvin Ho; Benson today.

CHC: THE FRUIT OF THEIR LABOUR

The first 20 members of City Harvest Church planted a small seed in 1989 and watered it with the Word, sweat and tears. Built upon Jesus Christ, the cornerstone of the church, CHC had its foundation in those early years of consecration, sacrifice and persecution that its pioneers went through, focused on the mission to love God wholeheartedly and to love people fervently.

- 1) 1986-1989: Ekklesia Ministry began life in 41A Amber Road, where Kong’s five youth cell groups from Marine Parade Christian Centre met nearly daily.
- 2) The infant church, with its core group of 20, held its first meeting at Peace Centre on May 7, 1989 and saw 135 in attendance. Within a year, the 20 had grown to 364 in 1990.
- 3) By 1991, that number had doubled to 650 and the congregation had started worshipping at World Trade Centre. Ekklesia Ministry was formally registered with the Registry of Societies as City Harvest Church in 1992.
- 4) In 1993, church services moved to the Westin Stamford Hotel as the congregation grew in size. This was the year CHC registered as a charity.
- 5) CHC moved into the former Hollywood Theatre on Tanjong Katong Road in 1995. The Church Without Walls movement was launched that year and the congregation grew exponentially.
- 6) In 2001, the church moved to its “miracle building” in Jurong West St 91. This was the first building fully owned by CHC. Here, the congregation grew to 18,000 by 2005. The church had a vision of a new place in the marketplace, and the second Arise & Build campaign was launched.
- 7) At the end of 2005, CHC moved East to Singapore Expo, where it rented Hall 8 to hold its burgeoning congregation. The congregation size peaked at 32,000.
- 8) In 2010, CHC became a shareholder in Suntec Singapore, and now uses Level 6 as its worship location in the heart of the city.



COVER STORY

Kong Hee: Looking Back On 25 Years

City Harvest Church's senior pastor shares his honest thoughts about the church on its silver anniversary.

By DAWN SEOW



PHOTO: HENZY DAVID

Kong Hee is thankful for all God has done in CHC.

This year CHC turns 25—it is a milestone year, its silver anniversary. What are your thoughts about reaching 25? Has God given you a vision for the church's future?

Silver in the Bible always speaks of refining. I'm not superstitious but I believe we are in the process of refining. We are not old as a church but neither are we young anymore. [Being] 25 is coming to a place of strength and stability and maturity. I am excited for that.

I'm very grateful for what God has done for us. To be honest, 25 years ago, when I started the church I never dreamed that our church will be so large and that our ministry would reach so far. Every day, I pinch myself because I feel like I'm living in a dream and I pray I'll never wake up from it. It's an exciting journey and there are a lot of highs and lows. Overall, I must say in the past 25 years, every day is an adventure with the Holy Spirit and with Jesus; every single day is worth living for.

I'm very, very grateful to the Lord for allowing me to be part of this journey.

I have a very strong sense of destiny for our church, and I feel God raises us up for a time like this with a message and a purpose for our generation. In the same way the Bible describes King David, I want

CHC to serve the purpose of God for our generation. I'm very excited because I feel that the message of the Great Commandment, Great Commission and the Cultural Mandate will get stronger and stronger. In fact, such a simple idea as "loving God, loving people"—which is what the Great Commandment and Great Commission are all about—when we had that revelation, it was 20 years ago. It was so simple yet you didn't hear people talking about it. But these days, everywhere you go, in Asia for sure, and even in the West, people are saying that the whole purpose of the Christian life and the church is loving God, loving souls.

Fifteen years ago when we talked about being relevant

and engaging culture, it was such a new idea. For many churches, they would, at best, create a subculture within culture itself, where people could be progressive but still remain within the four walls of the church. Now we see all around the world, whether in the East or West, churches teaching their members to be the salt of the earth and light of the world in their society, and I'm excited about that. I'm very grateful that God used CHC in a very small way to bring out this message.

Twenty-five years ago, God gave you a mandate to raise "a generation of young people who will take Asia by storm" for Him. It is clear that you have done that with all your might. Are you satisfied with your efforts? Were there any surprises as you set about fulfilling the call?

When you look back, you will always feel you can do better, but when I average out the highs and lows, I must say I am grateful for God for what He has done among us. As the Bible says, we can only stand back and say this is the work of God. Notwithstanding all the challenges, I am very grateful that God is so sovereign and He has done such an amazing job with our generation.

I think the biggest surprise for me was

the fact that God had such a big work for us. I just never expected that. I came from a neighborhood church with 60 people, a small church; in fact, that whole church would qualify as a cell group in CHC today. It goes to show, God can do exceedingly abundantly above all we could ask or imagine, according to the power that works in us (Ephesians 3:20). So that has been the biggest surprise: that God really keeps His promises and He is a covenant-keeping God. In spite of all our weaknesses and our inadequacies, God can still do what He wants through vessels like us.

What are you most pleased with in the last 25 years of building God's church?

I'm very pleased that God could entrust us with certain visions and goals, and we could partner with the Holy Spirit to see those visions and goals coming to pass. Things like building a "church without walls"; the Crossover Project; building a strong local church that is contemporary, musical and relevant, at the same time spiritual, walking in holiness, loving the Word of God and strong in prayer. I'm very grateful to God because it's a tension that is not easy to balance. We are not always perfect, but I think we have done very well with the grace of God.

I'm very pleased with the number of disciples we have raised up. We didn't

"I think the biggest surprise for me was the fact that God had such a big work for us. I just never expected that. God really keeps His promises and He is a covenant-keeping God."

just raised up church members or leaders, we raised up disciples who are equipped, trained and willing to carry the Cross, to obey the Lord in all that God wants them to do. I think CHC is a disciple-making church, and we have a disciple-making mission. Our disciples are literally impacting the nations of the world, I'm very grateful for that.

I'm also very pleased with the fact that in spite of all the challenges we have gone through, our church is still very united

and the atmosphere of love and unity is really present. Usually the older a church gets, the more divided the people become. That is because when we grow older, we can become very cynical about life, about church, or about the leadership. But we see in CHC that even with all the responsibilities of family, work and life piling up, all our members are still always loving one another, loving the church.

And of course, I'm very pleased that after 25 years, the presence and power of God is stronger than ever before. Every time I interact with our people, they always say they love to come to church because the presence of God is so strong; they love the worship because when they worship God they can experience His power. A lot of things to be thankful for!

What are the things that could be improved in the coming years?

I think the challenge of any growing or aging church is the dilution of discipleship, pastoral care, and spirituality. From a church, it sometimes becomes an institution and then a monument. Sometimes we can't help that because we all have a fallen human nature. The challenge here is to keep the fire going from one generation to another, the passion going from one generation to one generation without any dilution.

Life is a series of exchanges—you gain some, you lose some. I think I gained a lot in the sense that our mission work has really exploded. CHC was 12 years old when we moved into Jurong West in Dec 2001. On the 13th year, [my wife] Sun and I really launched out into missions. I think the fruit of our mission work is seen all around the world. Today, we have 47 churches affiliated to CHC. Beyond that, our influence in missions is even greater through the local denominations that we collaborate with all around Asia and around the world. All this didn't happen by chance—we worked very hard, put in a lot of effort, and invested a lot of resources.

However, the downside of that was it took me and Sun away from CHC from 2002 all the way to 2010. I lost nine years of active local ministry in Singapore. Do I regret that? Yes and no: the upside is we impacted the world; the downside is, there's certain level of dilution in our local home base.

Moving forward, for the next 25 years, I would want to spend a season focusing on the local church again, to strengthen those that have grown up with us, and to raise up the up-and-coming generation. I'm looking forward to really putting all my strength and energy back to the local church to take CHC into its next 25 years.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

Sun Ho: The Beginning & The Now

The co-founder of City Harvest Church talks about the early days of the church and the current season it is in.

By YONG YUNG SHIN

What was your first impression of Pastor Kong?

I remember thinking that this was a very young man but dressed very old, not fashionable at all, you know, with those big glasses—just not hip (*laughs*). He was very serious, but he was very eloquent, I was very captivated by what he said. He was just very dynamic.

Pastor Kong has told the church before that he proposed to you by walking over to your office table and popping the question. What made you say yes?

I think about that all the time—what made me say “yes”? Honestly, I don’t know. He was our Brother Kong, he was like Apostle Paul to us. In my heart—I’m sure it wasn’t just me—I thought if I ever married, I would like my husband to be like Brother Kong. But there wasn’t really anything romantic between us then. We were just co-workers, really focused on building the church.

When he came into the office and asked me, I really thought he was joking. So I laughed and laughed, then I caught myself because I realized I was the only one laughing and he was looking really serious, so I stopped laughing and I just said yes. Looking back now, I think I said yes because I must have felt in my spirit that it was the right decision.

After that I went home and told my dad that I was getting married. He pulled my sister into a room and interrogated her because he thought I had got pregnant, because nobody in the family knew I was seeing someone—and I wasn’t! It was quite comical actually. Thank God, I was young enough to be so impulsive!

What were some of your fondest memories of the early days of CHC?

It would be those hours we spent worshipping and praying together. In fact, I’ve been thinking about reviving overnight prayer meetings—not the ones that end at 11pm but start at 11pm, and go all the way to 5am.

I really enjoyed that time with God and with the others, really building deep and authentic relationships. We were all youth, so we had all the time in the world. I really believe that personally, most of my personal breakthroughs and encounters with God were achieved during those moments. We were so radical! We were very excited to share about what the Lord spoke to us, the words of prophecy, what we saw in the spirit, the visions we had. We’d go back to our cell groups and pray for healing, and we’d see very spectacular healings. I remember one member sprained his wrist, and the bone in his wrist had shifted, and I was so full of faith and I

prayed for him and we all saw it move back to its rightful position.

We were so on fire, when the Lord spoke to us, there was no doubt in our hearts, even though we were so young. Also at that time, it was very hard to be Christians, our salvation was very precious to us. Being a Christian was not a hip thing—our salvation could have caused us to be disowned (by our families). Every prayer meeting was precious, every worship meeting was precious. These were the shared experiences during the revival which really bonded us. That’s why until today many of us are still very, very close friends and I know that we’ll be friends for life, until we all grow old.

What have been your most difficult moments in life and what do you draw strength from?

I think the lowest moments of my life were when I miscarried twice, when I lost my two babies. I slipped into depression, especially with the second one, because he was already about three months along. It was very, very difficult for me. But God has been nothing short of amazing. I have dreamed of both them. Earlier I used the word “he” because the Lord actually showed me that both of them are boys, that was how the Lord helped me walk out of that depression. He also assured me that one day I

“So much happened during the Crossover, but one thing I remember most clearly is this: standing on the stage each night, after sharing my testimony, seeing the souls come forward, telling myself, ‘It’s all worth it, it’s all worth it.’”

will see them in Heaven.

I seldom talk about this but there were also difficult moments during the Crossover. It was just a hard mission. There were days when I didn’t serve the vision with the best attitude. It was hard to be on the road, to be apart from the family I’m so close to, and not just my dad and mom, but church. Church is not just church to me, it’s where my closest

friends are, the people I grew up with.

If I can sum it up in one sentence: it was not glamorous. People tell me everything looked so fun, so glam. Honestly, there was nothing glam about it. Who wants to wake up at 3am and have people pulling your hair, touching your face, and then be up and chasing the sunrise?

Of course, I loved the singing part of it, but to me, it was a difficult mission because first and foremost, it was a mission of the church, and I felt tremendous pressure to be successful. Sometimes it took away the joy. And the values in the world and those in the church are poles apart. People in the church world were upset with me, asking how could a pastor’s wife do this, and people in the entertainment world were suspicious of me. Many times, I asked God how long more I had to do it.

So much happened during the Crossover, but one thing I remember most clearly is this: standing on the stage each night, after sharing my testimony, seeing the souls come forward, telling myself, “It’s all worth it, it’s all worth it.”

Throughout the Crossover Project, when I felt like giving up, I’d go back to Isaiah 43 and 49, which I felt was a promise that God would give me honor, because many times I felt so dishonored, so shamed—and the word “honor” means a lot to me. That was what kept me going: the promise, the *rhema* of God.

How would you say you have grown in your understanding of yourself and of God these past years since the Crossover Project?

These past years, having traveled widely, I have seen how much God loves souls, how much He loves the lost. It doesn’t matter whether you’re successful or not—and I’ve met the whole spectrum—people need the Lord. I’m very, very grateful that God used an ordinary girl like myself, a really broken soul with a story I was so ashamed of, one I thought I would bring



PHOTO: MICHAEL CHAN

Sun Ho feels closer to God now more than ever.

to my grave. He used it to touch people.

One thing I’ve learned, God never wastes any of our pain, no matter how dysfunctional our background is. Sometimes you ask, “Why is my life like this?” or you feel, “Why am I so stupid?” He will use our stories, I know this because I have witnessed it.

For the last four years of the ongoing court case, I have, unfortunately, seen the best and the worst of human nature, both within the body of Christ and outside. I’ve seen how the world works, and I’ve definitely have become wiser, less naïve. But more than that, I’ve come to realize that I need God desperately than ever before. I really think that human extremities are God opportunities. Many times, when I feel that I have come to the end of myself, I’ve learned to stand still and see the salvation of God. During the Crossover, I saw the power and glory of God, but in the last four years, I’ve seen grace of God, and the verse, “His grace is sufficient for me” has become more than just a Bible verse to me. These four years, I have never felt so close to God in my walk with Him.

For the full interviews with Kong Hee and Sun Ho, please visit www.citynews.sg

CHURCH & MISSIONS

When They Were 25...

Kong Hee founded City Harvest Church when he was 25, and this year, the church turns 25. *City News Weekly* find out from CHC's pastors what they were doing at this milestone age.

By **DAWN SEOW** (Additional reporting by Yong Yung Shin, Yeo Zhiqi, GJ Gonzales, Nicolette Ng, Joelle Pang, Enoch Seet and Theodora Ho.)



Tan Ye Peng

(left) I was teaching in City Harvest Bible Training Centre (SOT) when I was 25.



Bobby Chaw

(right) At age 25, I was studying in CHBTC, and I started going on mission trips.

Sun Ho

(At 25) I was very involved in discipleship and administration in the church, very much like what I'm doing now; raising up the creative ministry, providing counseling to members. That was also the time we released our gospel CD, *Remember Us*. I remember the church was very young at that time, and my main burden back then was to raise up and train leaders fast enough to cope with the growing congregation.

Aries Zulkarnian

(below, in blue) I was working as a zone supervisor in CHC and I was leading seven cell groups at that time.



Lim Meng Chin

(in blue) When I was 25, I was serving in City Harvest Community Services Association (CHCSA) as a program executive. When I first started youth work, it was very difficult. For about six months, we had to go out on the streets to interview and talk to strangers. That taught me how to relate to the youths.

I was also involved the SANA (Singapore Anti-Narcotics Association) Pal program, a befriending program to help school dropouts to re-enter school. It was very challenging to motivate them. At the end of year, we always had a camp for them and during the camp we saw lives being transformed.

At the age of 25, I came to understand how love can be translated into actions through community work and by taking care of the people around you.

Edmund Tay

When I was 25 years old, I was still deciding on which church to commit myself to. It was probably during then that I found CHC, and since then, I have never looked back.



Jimmy Sng

I was in my first year at CHBTC, studying for a degree, working as a full-time tutor, while serving in various ministries in church. I was also helping out in the cell group ministry, drivers' ministry, drama ministry, tuition ministry as well as the outreaches in Johor Bahru.



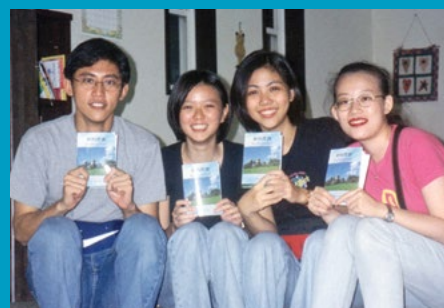
Wu Yuzhuang

(first from left) I got married when I was 25 and I was serving full-time in CHC. That year I also went on a mission trip to Mongolia with Pastor Tan (Ye Peng).



Joseph Ang

(first from left) At 25, I was in my second year at CHBTC and I went to Japan for a mission trip. It has been an amazing journey ever since.

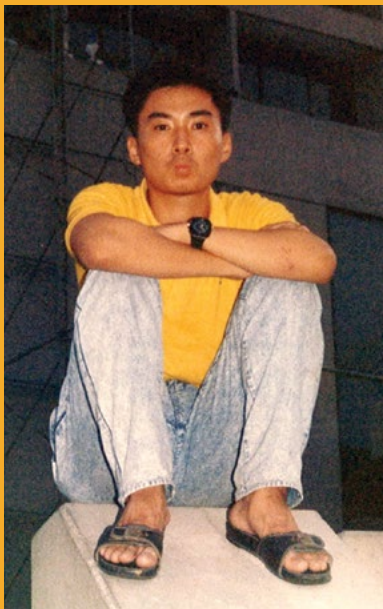


Jeremy Choy

(first from right) When I was 25, I remember spending much of my time with my cell group. Through our fellowship, we bonded and shared our lives with one another. I guess some things don't change and many years down the road, I'm still enjoying the friendships I have with my cell group members.



CHURCH & MISSIONS



Yong Te-Chong

(left) I'd been serving as a church staff for a few years when I was 25. At the time, I had just completed National Service and was very into exercising so I was probably conducting keep fit programs for the church members.

Lynn Tan

(left, in red and white) At 25, I had graduated from university and was practising law. That was the year I heard God told to me go to Bible School. I remember it was during a Leader's Meeting and Pastor Kong was talking about Bible School; I just felt the Lord tell me that I should go the following year. There was a lot of favor: I told my boss that I wanted to quit but he told me to take one year off instead. I was very blessed.



Tan Yah Lan

(center in tank top) I was in CHBTC when I was 25. It was a tough year for me. I had a full time job, leading four cell groups, and attending Bible School all at the same time. I remember going through a lot of training and my capacity was very stretched.

Kenneth Sim

(back row, third from left) I was serving full time in CHC as Assistant Dean of CHBTC when I was 25. I was doing missions in India, Bangladesh and the Philippines at that time.



Tan Kim Hock

(in gown) At 25, I was in my second year of Bible School at CHBTC.



Choong Tsih Ming

(back row, second from right) I was 25 in 1995. That was the year CHC moved to Hollywood. At the dedication service, God reminded me that 10 years ago, in 1985, He had said three things to me. One, "This man (Pastor Kong) will be your pastor." Two, "This cell group will be a church." Three, "This church will have great influence across the world." I had forgotten all about that for 10 years! I looked up and Pastor Kong was on stage, we were now a church, and there were all these flags from different countries on the stage—one for every country we did missions in.



Eileen Toh

(center) I was on fire for God when I was 25, serving in the Children's Church.

Maria Tok

(in black, center) I made a major switch from building buildings (I was a quantity surveyor) to building lives when I became a full-time staff at 25.



Lee Yi Lun

I became a mom for the first time when I was 25 years old.



Glordia Goh

(right) I was doing missions at the age of 25 in India and Chiang Mai, Thailand. On those trips, I would preach to youths and adults, and conduct children's church services.



Lily Yong

I was attending CHBTC when I was 25.



Audrey Ng

I got married when I was 25. Ministry-wise, I was leading a zone and doing missions work.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

The Story Of City Harvest Chinese Church

Birthered out of a cell group that consisted of church members' parents, City Harvest Chinese Church has blessed many in the Chinese-speaking world. Pastor of the church, Tan Ye Peng, shares the journey.

By **THERESA TAN**



PHOTO: TU JIE RUI

Tan (in red) conducting service at the Chinese Church's 800-seater auditorium today.

"Chinese Church was started in 1996—it was born out of Church Without Walls," explains Tan Ye Peng, pastor of the Chinese Church since its onset. Church With-

out Walls was a 1995 City Harvest initiative to bring the Gospel beyond the four walls of the church, to leave an impact on people who would not otherwise step into

a church.

"It started as a cell group," Tan recalls. "It was made up of about 30 Chinese-speaking parents of our church members."

As the church grew, the cell group also grew, and the Chinese pastoral staff began to hold Chinese language services for these members on weekends, after the English service. "Firstly, it was [Chia] Chin Chin and subsequently her sister Ting Ting who did the preaching—Ting Ting was the first zone pastor," he says.

In 1997, Tan was asked by the church's senior pastor Kong Hee to become the pastor of the Chinese Church. "Pastor Kong felt that in the long term, it would be better for the Chinese Church to have a male pastor and he asked me if I had a burden for the Chinese-speaking congregation," he recalls. "Also, Ting was needed at that time to assist Sun [Ho, co-founder of the church]."

"When Pastor [Kong] asked me if I wanted to head the Chinese Church, I was apprehensive at first because I had never read a Chinese Bible, never preached in

Chinese," says Tan. "But he asked me to take up the challenge."

Tan began by collecting the offering during the Chinese service while Chia continued to preach. Eventually, after a few months, Tan took over preaching duties. "I preached my first full sermon in Chinese—all the sermons were translated from Pastor Kong's English messages that week. To help the members understand better, I would give them sermon outlines every week," he recalls.

One joyful moment for Tan was the day his mother received Christ. "We came from a non-Christian family, so she was not open to the Gospel for many years," he shares. "But in 1998, she got saved and became a member of the Chinese Church." Today, "Chen Mama" as she is known, is a church staff member in the nursery department.

Since 1996, the Chinese Church grew steadily each week, but it was when CHC moved to Jurong West in 2001 that it exploded in growth.

"We were supposed to use the fourth floor teaching rooms at Jurong West," says

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Tan. "Our first service was packed! The following week, we started using the B4 auditorium instead." This is the main auditorium of the Jurong West church that can seat 2,300.

Since that time, the church has grown "to 1,000 members." Chinese Church today enjoys its services next door to the English service, in its very own fully-fitted theater in Suntec Convention Centre's Hall 606, which seats 800.

God brought Chinese Church to its next level in 2004, when the church began seeing students from China coming to CHC's School of Theology. "Many of the graduates would attend the Chinese Church cell groups. When they went back to China, they would start pastoring their churches," he describes. This continues today. Tan explains, "Today, a strong focus of Chinese Church is to help the mainland Chinese churches."

2004 was also the year Tan encouraged local Chinese Church members to attend SOT. "Because of their educational background, the Chinese-speaking members feel they are not qualified enough to take up leadership positions in the church," he explains. "What brought a big breakthrough was when Chinese Church members went to SOT—even some who were of an advanced age had the will to go through the course. As a result, over the years, all our cell group leaders have gone through SOT."

Today, nearly 59 percent of Chinese

Church is made up of Chinese-speaking Singaporeans, while 41 percent are Chinese-speaking nationals from other countries, primarily Malaysians, mainland Chinese and Taiwanese. Many of them live and work in Singapore on contract, hence the population of Chinese Church is constantly evolving: members go back to their home country and new people join the church. Currently, the congregation size stands at 1,029 and there are 37 cell groups in Chinese Church. While the Church started with a congregation of older members, now the oldest cell group leader is 60 while the youngest is 29. While the older members are Singaporean, the younger ones are mostly Malaysian and mainland Chinese.

"The uniqueness of Chinese Church is that the median age is significantly older than that of the English service congregation," notes Tan. "Also, they have simplicity in their hearts towards Jesus and enjoy the fellowship in church every week."

A PERSONAL JOURNEY

Tan admits that when he started preaching at Chinese Church he did not have much confidence. While he was conversant in Mandarin, there was Bible jargon he had not mastered. "Between 1998 and 2000,



From left: Tan in the early days of Chinese Church; Chia Ting Ting was the Chinese Church's first zone pastor.



PHOTOS: CHC

I was struggling. I would tell the congregation every service, 'I'm sorry I couldn't preach better,'" he says.

"In 2000, I had a spiritual encounter with God," he adds. "He said, 'Stop apologizing for being a Chinese church pastor. I will anoint you and I will use you.' From that moment on, things started to change. I felt the words coming more naturally as I preached in Mandarin every week.

"When the Church had a need, I just stepped up. Little did I know that God was preparing us for the Crossover in Taiwan in 2001. Because I was the Chinese Church pastor, I naturally became the liaison with the Taiwanese pastors we worked with during the Crossover Project. Which is why I ended up helping Sun as her co-

ordinator, because of the language issue. That's the reason I was involved in the Crossover."

It was at this crucial time that the other Chinese Church pastors began rising up to help look after the congregation. "Thankfully God brought staff who helped me to run Chinese Church, like Joseph Ang, Leong Yan Chee and Sun Aizhen," says Tan. "I'm really grateful for them and all the leaders in Chinese Church."

Over its 17 years, God has shown that He has great plans for Chinese Church. For Tan, the goals for this year are to continue development of his leaders so that they can continue to give good pastoral care to members, and to continue missions to China to strengthen the churches there.



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CHURCH & MISSIONS

Emerge: Setting Youth On Fire For God

Eleven years have passed since the first Emerge Youth Conference took place in City Harvest Church. The youth conference has grown to impact not just young people in Singapore but across the world, with lasting fruit.

By **DAWN SEOW AND ELEANOR TAN**

Members of the public were pleasantly surprised when groups of young people went out of their way to help them. Elderly folk carrying heavy bags suddenly had personal “porters”. Foreign workers laboring under the sweltering sun received bottles of mineral water.

well spent brightening the lives of others.

EMERGE THEN AND NOW

Emerge is a youth movement in City Harvest Church that began in 2003 as a youth conference. Through the years, the conference has provided a platform for the youth in the church—people aged 13 to 25—to realize their talent and be inspired to serve God in their generation. While the early years of Emerge pivoted on the Cultural Mandate—being salt and light in the market-

school cluster formed Yong Ze Pai (Chinese for “courage”), youth studying in junior colleges, polytechnics and ITE colleges gathered in Teshua (Hebrew for “salvation”) while the university students formed Hudatos (Greek for “water”, representing the Holy Spirit).

The three days of Camp Revival saw the youths sweating it out in races and chases inventively named EMERGEcy, Emerge Map Out and Emerge Wars. The goal was to score points for their house, but the result was friendships forged and tight bonds

West auditorium every night at 7.30, jumping up and down, praising and worshipping God enthusiastically. Tan taught the young people to consecrate their lives before the Lord on the first night, while Kong taught them how to take up the mission of God and how to engage culture to win the lost.

Other elements that added to Emerge were the Book of Acts Challenge—for 21 days leading up to the camp, participants read the entire Book of Acts and fasted corporately—and the “Stand for Revival” wall at Suntec Hall 605. The campers



Toddlers received colorful balloons. Men and women found themselves munching on Oreo cookies handed out by these young people.

Emerge Week 2014 kicked off with Red Nose Kindness Day on Jun 22, with 529 young people spending an entire day roaming the streets of Singapore on foot, performing little acts of kindness. Some of the youth were also licensed to sell red noses to raise funds to provide groceries to needy families.

Although these kind acts were small and simple, they went a long way in putting smiles on the faces of many recipients. At the barbecue that ended that day, the youth were evidently happy with their efforts despite their exhaustion. They felt that their day had been

place, excelling in school and other pursuits—the element of community service was introduced in 2012 to encourage the young people to create and execute projects that make a difference to the local community. Red Nose Kindness Day this year

Traditionally, the highlight of Emerge are the various Youth Camps that take place during the mid-year school holidays in June. This year, the youth from different zones came together for Emerge Week which combined all the youth camps into one. One of key focuses of Emerge 2014 was campus evangelism and this year's participants were grouped according to their school clusters: students from the East and West secondary schools formed the house Idai-Sa (Japanese for “ninja”), students from the North and South secondary

created between participants.

On the final day of Emerge, the youths gathered at Toa Payoh stadium for the finale game, Emerge Wars. The participants engaged in a fierce battle, firing water guns and dousing the other team's paper lollipops—once all their paper lollipops were wet, that house is out of the game. Midway through Emerge Wars, the campers broke for lunch and embarked on “Evangelism Hour” where for a full hour, everybody texted, called and messaged their friends and classmates to invite them to that weekend's church service.

The day activities challenged the youths' physical fitness, while the night sessions with CHC's pastor, Tan Ye Peng, and senior pastor, Kong Hee challenged their spirituality. Despite having expended their energy all day, the young ones were in CHC's Jurong

would write the name of their respective schools, pledging to make a difference in their campuses.

Grace Tan, 15, a student, said that she felt that this year's Emerge event was the best she had attended so far. She also said that she was happy to have made many new friends and that Emerge Week 2014 left a big impact on her.

THE ONES WHO HAVE EMERGED

With a burden for the young people in Singapore and a vision to see them on fire for God, senior pastor of City Harvest Church Kong Hee launched the first Emerge Youth Conference in 2003. Over three days, Kong challenged the youths to start a revival in their own campus and inspired them to step into the purpose that God had for their lives.

CHURCH & MISSIONS

His wife, Sun, also encouraged the young people to live out their dreams and talents without compromising their love for Jesus.

These messages burned deep into the hearts of the young attendees and gave them the courage to claim their destinies. Eleven years later, those same young people are now in a different phase of life, but the dreams that had been deposited in their hearts and the friendships forged in those days never died.

For Joyce Tan, it was at an early Emerge Conference session that she heard from God and found her calling to serve in church full-time. Today, the 30-year-old events executive is part of the Emerge committee of CHC, organizing enriching programs for the youth today.

"To me, Emerge was a time for all of us youths to gather and worship God with all of our hearts," she remembers. "We were all

in our church."

THE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF SCHOOL REVIVAL

Wayne Choong, a zone supervisor and Julian Lee, an engineer, both Emerge 2003 alumni, caught the vision of campus revival back in their day. They reached out to their fellow students in their schools and have seen revival in their cell groups and zone to this day. Choong told the church during Emerge 2014 that he and his members had a strong passion for youths and started visualizing their schools as harvest fields and themselves as laborers with a mission to bring in the harvest. In the years that followed, his cell group of 12 members grew and multiplied into nine other cell groups.

During the same testimony, Lee told the church that his cell group had 16 members consisting of secondary school students.

Seng School came to church and brought four other classmates. They were integrated to the cell group right away. The group of students continued to pray and reach out in Gan Eng Seng School and brought 16 for Easter service this year.

Over 11 years, the wave of school revival that began with Choong and Lee more than a decade ago is still bringing young people to the Lord.

PARADE OF SCHOOLS

One of the landmark competitions of early Emerge conferences was the Parade of Schools, a high-energy cheerleading competition that required a large number of participants.

Each campus and cluster would send their finest cheerleaders to compete using their best cheerleading moves. Abel Yap, 25, an audio engineer and Raymond

but the bonds created among the teammates lasted to this day. One crucial factor will be the network of spiritual youths who took time out of their studies to participate in church activities," says Lum. "We prayed and fellowshiped together in school over meals—this helped us to stay connected. We would go to church meetings together, share the difficulties we face and encourage one another. All these forged strong bonds among us. Most of my close friends in church today are those from my POS group during Emerge days."

Lum sums up the Emerge experience well. "Emerge has given me a family, a network of friends of people in church that I previously did not know. It changed my life on campus and I realized that I was not alone in



PHOTOS: EMERGE YOUTH PHOTOGRAPHERS

young people and I felt very free to worship God and hear from Him. Pastor Kong challenged us to not despise our youth and use our talents to serve God, to live our lives for God. We believed and were inspired."

Rae Lee, 29, a human resource manager, also caught her vision to be a cell group leader during the first Emerge conference 11 years ago. "It was then that I learned the meaning of audacity, excellence and abundance," she says. "All these years, I've applied what I learned and caught at that conference. In the past six years of my ministry, I've witnessed numerous lives changed for the glory of God. God is a God of growth, I believe in His consistency and if He has done it once, He will do it again, and each time He does it, it will be bigger and better. Greater days are ahead for the youths

Their first campus revival happened in Henderson Secondary School. With just two boys from Henderson Secondary, Lee and his cell group would hold prayer meetings and Lee would provide free tuition for them. Through many outreaches, the group of two students grew to 12 students attending cell group and service regularly.

In 2010, the cell group experienced revival in Anglican High School. A member, Irene, brought a friend from AHS to church. From one student from AHS, the group grew to 11 AHS students. Through cell group outreaches, all these students became part of the cell group.

Last year, one of the connect group leaders in the cell group signed up as a volunteer to give free tuition to a class of Primary 6 students. One of his students from Gan Eng

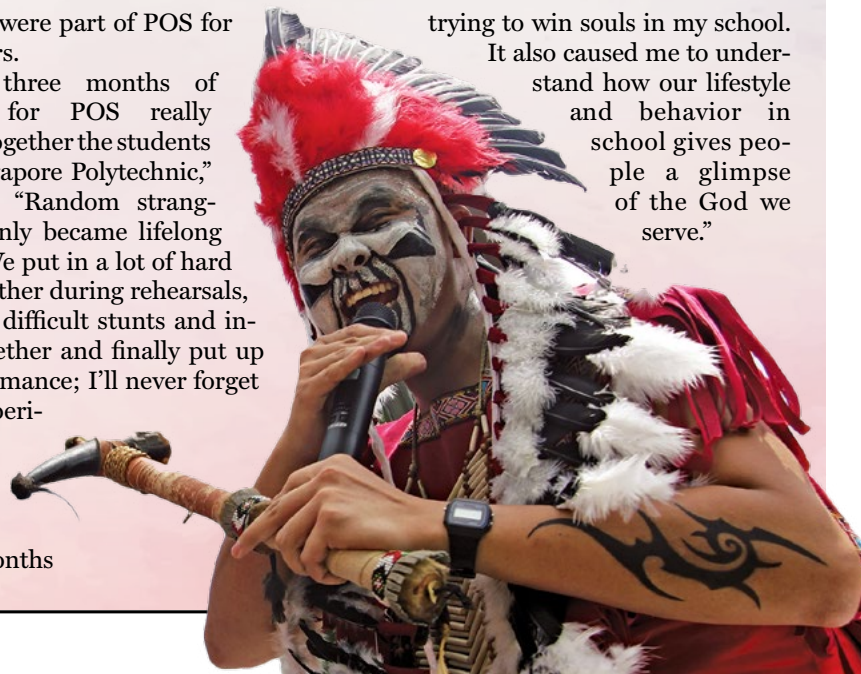
Lum, 26, were part of POS for many years.

"The three months of training for POS really brought together the students from Singapore Polytechnic," Yap says. "Random strangers suddenly became lifelong friends. We put in a lot of hard work together during rehearsals, overcame difficult stunts and injuries together and finally put up the performance; I'll never forget the experience!"

"POS training lasted a few months

trying to win souls in my school.

It also caused me to understand how our lifestyle and behavior in school gives people a glimpse of the God we serve."



CHURCH & MISSIONS

THE WINGS OF EMERGE MOVEMENT

The Emerge Youth Conference has proved to be such a powerful evangelizing and disciple-making tool that CHC's affiliate churches in other cities, from Kuala Lumpur to Taipei, have adapted its format to fit their own youth populations to great success. To this day, Emerge is still helping churches bring their young members to the next level of love and fervency for God.

By **DAWN SEOW**

TAIWAN



At the first Taiwan Emerge Conference in 2006, 10,000 youth converged at the National Taiwan University indoor stadium. Organizers from City Harvest Church collaborated with 150 churches in Taiwan and hosted what was the largest youth event in Taiwan at the time.

Emerge Taiwan became a clarion call to youth in Taiwan to make a difference in their cities and campuses. The churches united as one to make the event a success and the youths in different churches joined hands to take part in the different competitions and reach out to new friends.

The life-changing effects of four years of Emerge Taiwan (2006-2009) can be felt even today. Pastor of **Hsin Tien Covenant Church** in Taipei, Wayne Chang says that Emerge allowed young Taiwanese to see that being a Christian does not mean being irrelevant to society. They saw that it was okay to be

cool and that, as a Christian, they can impact their society.

"The main message of Emerge was that you can be relevant and spiritual at the same time," he says. "I think for many of the youth this was something very important. This realization helped them in their walk with God." Today, many of Emerge youth have grown up and are serving full-time in Hsin Tien Covenant Church.

Another Taiwanese pastor Garriek Li from **Christ Harvest Church** in Taipei explains: "Emerge has changed, transformed and renewed the mindset of the young people of how they view church," he explains. "Previously church to them was a boring, traditional and lifeless place—a place they couldn't relate or fit into. Emerge brought about changes and the renewal of Taiwan churches, and the young people began to see church as a place that is fun, creative, lively and relevant to them. They were drawn back to church again, and were willing to be discipled and planted in the house of God."



PHOTO: CHC

From left: Emerge Taiwan 2007 Manhunt and Beauty Pageant winners; superstar Jay Chou being interviewed by Liu Geng Hong at Emerge Taiwan 2007.

"Emerge inspired and challenged these young people to go all out for Jesus, to have spiritual hunger for God's presence, and to live out the message of loving God wholeheartedly and people fervently.

"Because of Emerge and the mighty revival it brought to Taiwan churches

and youths, we saw the population of Christians in Taiwan grow from under three percent in 2006 to 10 percent now. Thank you Pastor Kong, Sun and CHC for making a difference in our nation. We are still reaping the harvest from the seed of revival sown during Emerge Taiwan!"

MALAYSIA



CITY HARVEST CHURCH, KUALA LUMPUR

City Harvest Church, Kuala Lumpur held its first Emerge Youth Conference on Aug 29, 2006, at Sunway Convention Center. A total of 2,000 young people gathered for three days of preaching and competitions. In one year the church grew from 380 people to 740 people. The fruit? Abel Teh, who has been on the Emerge planning committee since 2006, says "Many of the youths gained a newfound confidence to pursue their God-given dreams in the marketplace. Even one of the new friends who joined the Parade of Schools accepted Jesus and is now working full time in church!"

CITY HARVEST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP, KUCHING

City Harvest Church Fellowship, Kuching marked a milestone with its first Emerge Conference in 2006. The small town had never conducted such a large conference before. A team from CHC Singapore, led by pastor Wu Yuzhuang, helped to organize the event and minister to the youth. Every session was anointed, and members were challenged to live their lives for God. In an evangelistic meeting during the conference, some 45 youths gave their hearts to Jesus.



CHINA



HANGZHOU XIAOYANG CHURCH

A School of Theology student who attended the Emerge Youth Conference in Singapore in 2006 decided to replicate it back home in Hangzhou. She remembered how the church would invite celebrities to perform in Emerge and many young people showed up for the event and as a result, received salvation. She duplicated this, inviting celebrities to her church's Emerge events in 2009, 2010 and 2011. Because of Emerge, many youths were saved and are now a part of the church. Today, many of those young people are serving in the different ministries in the church.

USA



CITY HARVEST CHURCH US, ORANGE COUNTY

CHCUS, launched in March 2013, is located in a movie theater across from the University of California's Irvine Campus (UCI). Pastored by Derek and Susan Dunn, the young church registered a student club called Emerge @ UCI, and held Bible study classes. The Lord gave them a vision for regular Emerge events, and their first one in Oct 2013 attracted 42 newcomers. Dunn met Neil Smith, a pastor and international director of Australian worship band Planetshakers, who was moved by the vision and offered to let the band play at the next Emerge event in Nov 2013. The event drew 250 attendees and passersby joined in; many were added to the church after. Says Dunn, "The anointing for Emerge is evident and we know God is going to do great things in the university."



Advertorial

**GET REAL**

Ms Chen Ming Hui, 30+, first time entrepreneur and mother of 4.

Exclusive Interview

Conducted by Get Real Business Group

GR: Get Real, M: Ming Hui

GR: Wow, Ming Hui, I don't believe that you have 4 kids! You have such a great figure!

M: Haha, I do love kids and I enjoy raising them and give them a wonderful childhood. I believe that's every mom's wish!

GR: In this society, it's common that moms need to balance between work and family. Share with us how you cope with this.

M: One word: TOUGH. Basically it's very hard to enjoy the best of both worlds. I love my kids so much but I do love my job too. A lot of the time, my work requires more commitment from me and I really hate to disappoint my kids by not turning up at their school performances and Sports Days.

GR: Please share with our readers what secret have you found that allows you to have more time with your kids.

M: I started an online business selling rubber stamps in early July this year. The beauty about an online business is that business is in operation 24/7. I do not

need to have a shop front to sell anywhere at anytime. With this business, I actually depend less on my current job because now as I have an alternative source of income.

GR: Why rubber stamps?

M: There is a huge demand for rubber stamps from all sorts of companies, agencies, society, non-for-profit organizations, schools and many more. And each company will need at least 2-3 stamps. Other than the demand, the profits that I am earning through this e-portal is 1500%! Can you imagine that? Haha.

GR: So if you are doing this from home, don't you need to keep a lot of the stock?

M: No, I don't have to keep any stock at all. My e-portal was set up by Rubber Stamp Nowhere Pte Ltd and they also took care of the production of the rubber stamps plus the delivery to my customers. The business model is structured such that I don't have to worry about the inventory and logistics. This is definitely a gem for all stay-at-home moms or working moms who want to have a passive income.

Stop wondering and start taking action! Join us for a business sharing and find out more how you can benefit.

Mummy Power

The time factor

Ming Hui, who is in her early 30s, has 4 children of aged 12, 8, 7 and 4. Being a young mom, she has to work to supplement the household income. She has worked as a beauty consultant, an administrative executive and a property agent. For a working mom, it is a struggle to have work-life balance. As her work requires more commitment from her, she has less time to spend with her kids.

Every year, Ming Hui would miss important events such as her kids' school performances, sports carnivals and even school graduation ceremonies. It hurt to see her children's disappointed faces. Even little duties like bringing them for haircuts fell to her children's guardians. She felt that an invisible wall was being built between her kids and her and she wasn't as close to them as before.

Life is all about the choices you make. To Ming Hui, her kids are her priority, and building up her relationship with her kids is the most important task on her list right now. It occurred to her that she needed to have a change in her career.

One day, she spoke to a business consultant and was introduced to a business opportunity which would let her work from home. It was an online business that allowed customers to design and place orders for rubber stamps. Ming Hui was convinced that this would be the best solution for her current situation and she signed up for it immediately.

After operating the business for 2 weeks, Ming Hui is happy that this new business has created another source of income for her. She has switched to a part-time job while continuing this profitable business. Now, she has more free time with her kids and they are more communicative about what happens in school. With the great opportunity and profit margin she enjoys, she is considering running her rubber stamp business full time.

GET REAL

Interested to find out more? SMS or Whatsapp to +65 8484 2777

CHURCH & MISSIONS

In One Accord: CHC Affiliates

“One can put a thousand to flight; two can put ten thousand.” City Harvest Church currently has a network of 50 affiliated churches and Bible schools in different parts of the world.

Many of these are churches started by graduates of CHC's School of Theology, who return home with the fire to start a church for the Lord—for example, Kevin Loo, senior pastor of City Harvest Church Kuala Lumpur. Some were existing churches, such as New Life Church in Taipei, led by senior pastor Abraham Ku, who have come under the spiritual covering of CHC Singapore. Yet others are a direct offshoot of CHC Singapore, like City Harvest Church US in Orange County, founded by Derek Dunn, a pastor from CHC Singapore, and his wife Susan, both of whom have returned home to the US.

As the affiliate network grows, it is CHC Singapore's hope and desire to see its mandate lived out globally: to love God wholeheartedly, to love people fervently and to engage culture for Christ.



CHURCH & MISSIONS

TAIWAN

Pingtung Peace Church, Pingtung (Youth)
Pastor: **Ge Zhao Xing**
Year Established: 2004
Current Congregation Size: 568

City Harvest, Brunei
Senior Pastor: **Jeremy Yeo**
Year Established: 2012
Current Congregation Size: 101

City Harvest Christian Fellowship, Sibui (Youth)
Pastor: **David Ngu**
Year Established: 2001
Current Congregation Size: 296

City Harvest Church, Kuching
Senior Pastor: **George Tiong**
Year Established: 2001
Current Congregation Size: 727

New Life Church, Taipei
Senior Pastor: **Abraham Ku**
Year Established: 1996
Current Congregation Size: 3,553

Hsin Tien Covenant Church, Taipei (Youth)
Pastor: **Wayne Chang**
Established: 2004
Current Congregation Size: 842

Rhema Harvest Church, Tainan
Senior Pastor: **Yan Guang Ming**
Year Established: 2004
Current Congregation Size: 150

City Harvest Church, Sydney
Senior Pastor: **John Lee**
Year Established: 2005
Current Congregation Size: 108

JAPAN

Fukuoka Harvest Church, Kyushu
Senior Pastor: **Kunio Nishida**
Year Established: 1989
Current Congregation Size: 237

Kumamoto Harvest Church, Kyushu
Senior Pastor: **Yoji Nakamura**
Year Established: 2003
Current Congregation Size: 73

Christ Harvest Church, Banqiao
Senior Pastor: **Garrick Li**
Year Established: 2013
Current Congregation Size: 89

Passion 99 Harvest Church, Taipei
Senior Pastor: **Sophie Hsiung**
Year Established: 2008
Current Congregation Size: 157

Da Di Harvest Church, Kao Hsiung
Senior Pastor: **Caleb Chen**
Year Established: 2005
Current Congregation Size: 100

USA

City Harvest Church, USA
Senior Pastor: **Derek Dunn**
Year Established: 2013
Current Congregation Size: 62

AUSTRALIA

Advertorial

From Martial Arts to Latte Art

Mr Robin Yeo learned martial arts during his school days for almost 5 years. He participated in many competitions and won a few. After graduation, he decided to become a martial arts instructor. Teaching students was a most enjoyable job for him. However, reality hit when the income was too low. He had to take up a part-time job as a deliveryman.

One day, Robin was invited to a friend's place and was offered a cup of coffee. He rejected it at first as he didn't like the bitterness of coffee. But his friend persuaded him to try, saying that his coffee was not bitter. True enough, without adding any milk or sugar, the coffee did not taste bitter at all. That day, they had a long chat about the originality of coffee.

After that day, Robin became very curious about coffee. He did much research and became very familiar with different types of coffee beans and the ways of making coffee. His curiosity became his passion, and he wanted to open his own café. He started to look for a suitable shop and hunting for trained baristas.

After making his calculations, he decided that the rental cost and staff salaries would kill the business even before the business could begin making revenue. At that point of time, he did not have much savings to invest in the business. He was very upset that his dream was about to be quashed.

Through sheer luck, Robin chanced upon a Get Real business preview towards the end of 2013, and discovered the LETS program by SETACAFE.COM PTE LTD. He was very excited to find out how this program could help him to realize his dream. He attended all the trainings and had successfully started his mobile coffee station, Coffee Anywhere.


GET REAL
Mr Robin, 40+, first time entrepreneur

Exclusive Interview

Conducted by Get Real Business Group

GR: Get Real; R: Robin

GR: So, I assume you are a huge coffee fan?

R: Haha! Not in the beginning. I do not like bitterness and coffee is often bitter. But when my friend asked me to try out his fresh-brewed coffee made from medium roasted Arabica beans, I loved it! It's not bitter at all!

GR: Do you think people are ready to accept coffee that does not taste like it's 'supposed' to?

R: I think it's time to educate coffee lovers on the right coffee to drink. We can't just keep people in the dark!

GR: How did the LETS program help you?

R: The LETS program is a very comprehensive program. From training to setting up of the mobile coffee station, the team guided me along. They are very professional. They made it so easy for me to learn, to get started and earn my first dollar.

GR: So where is the café located in Singapore?

R: It's at 44 Rochester Park, Singapore 139248. We operate daily from 8:30am to 5:30pm.



Advertorial

COFFEE: NOWHERE

a journey of excellence

SET A CAFE
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 cafe made possible

SETACAFE.COM PTE LTD is the market leader in Cafe Management, Mobile Coffee Catering, Wholesale of Coffee beans, Merchandising and Equipment.

Through the highly acclaimed LETS Program (Licensing, Equipment, Training, System & Software), SETACAFE.COM PTE LTD equips aspiring entrepreneurs to start a mobile specialty coffee business in a flash. Not only do you benefit from its wide array of business training covering sales and marketing, funding and more, you will be trained and equipped with the professional technical skills to craft a cup of quality artisanal coffee.

In a nutshell, anyone who goes through the LETS program will be able to start a mobile coffee business almost immediately.



COFFEE: NOWHERE
 a journey of excellence

Coffee Anywhere

BARISTA: NOWHERE
 perfecting every brew

GET REAL

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CHURCH & MISSIONS



SOT: 20 Years of Legacy Building

For two decades, City Harvest Church's School of Theology has raised up a generation of trained workers from across the world for the Kingdom of God.

By **LEE WEI FANG**

In 1994, exactly 20 years ago, the seed for starting a Bible school was planted in the heart of CHC's senior pastor, Kong Hee. At that time, there was a lack of charismatic, Spirit-filled Pentecostal and Evangelical Bible schools. Thus, recognizing a need to educate and empower CHC's staff through theological training, Kong started the City Harvest Bible Training Centre (CHBTC) with 29 students, most of whom were staff members of the church.

Kong was given a vision to raise up a new generation of believers who would impact the nations for Jesus, plant churches with members who are full of faith and filled with the Holy Spirit. As he explains on the School's website: "God wants to move through local churches to bring revival and blessing to the world; hence, our desire is to see strong local churches built to fulfil God's plan. That is the heartbeat of SOT. We long to see not just more workers sent out to fulfil God's purposes, but trained workers, deployed to be carriers of God's Spirit wherever they go."

In 1996, CHBTC saw its first batch of international students. The focus of the School became missions-oriented, in line with CHC's Church Without Walls mandate at that time, which was to bring the Gospel beyond the four walls of the church.

Concurrently, CHBTC officially changed its name to School Of Theology (SOT).

Opening the doors to overseas students—many from Malaysia, Indonesia and China—meant that there was suddenly an increased need for hands-on knowledge. Hence, the syllabus was updated to cater to the increasing need for hands-on know-how.

SOT's Dean of Students, Bobby Chaw, explains to *City News Weekly* that "increasingly, students were looking for practical theology, which involves the translation of theology into the how-tos of church-building." Academic subjects such as church history were replaced by hands-on topics, to equip the SOT students to become effective ministers through knowledge of conducting deliverance, applying discipleship, moving in the gifts of the Holy Spirit, homiletics and pastoral skills.

The duration of each intake was also gradually reduced from two years to a six-month course, due to factors such as affordability for foreign students, and work leave arrangements for local students.

THE SCHOOL TODAY

The syllabus comprises 17 topics, which provides comprehensive training for effective practical ministry. Additionally,

students are required to attend cell group meetings and weekend services, and serve in a ministry for a minimum of three hours

"I believe that internationally—and particularly in our region—SOT and CHC have a part to play in growing the Church of Jesus Christ."

~ Bobby Chaw, Dean of Students

a week. This allows the students to be fully immersed in the culture of CHC.

Students are also strongly encouraged to participate in at least one mission trip during the course. Mission trips are often the most challenging, but most fulfilling part of a student's journey at SOT. For many, it would be their first time ministering in a church, praying for the sick and seeing miracles happen.

SOT has blossomed under the leadership of its deans, past and present: Chia Ting Ting (1994-1995; 2002-2003), Kenneth Sim (1996-1997), Tan Ye Peng (1998), Yong Te Chong (1999-2000), and Bobby Chaw (2004 to the present).

Over the past 20 years, SOT has graduated more than 6,000 students from 37 countries. This year, the School has 371 students. The largest intake to date was 640 in 2010.

INTERNATIONAL IMPACT

Pastor Daniel Lau of City Light Church, Penang, an SOT graduate from 2006, says, "One of the things I caught was that a life of consecration to God should be the purpose and power of our ministry. This has helped me to serve God even in challenging times. The spirit of excellence in CHC left a deep impact on me: it was evident and consistent in every ministry that I joined. I was determined to bring back the same DNA to my home church because we all serve an excellent God!"

In 2010, Lau set up City Light Church with six college students. Implementing teachings he had learned from SOT such as managing cell group systems, Bible study curriculum and drama productions, the church has been able to reach

CHURCH & MISSIONS



PHOTOS: CHC

Scenes from two decades of Bible School.

many young people in Penang. Hundreds of them have attended the church's events and given their lives to God.

Lau also taught his church the principle of how people "don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care", and how "relationship precedes ministry." The church is now reaching out to students from eight colleges and universities in the city; some campuses have already experienced tremendous revival.

STORIES FROM THE DEAN

"One of the main concerns I have as the size of the student intake grows is how to maintain a healthy teacher-student interface time," says Chaw of the evolving challenges of running SOT. The first intake was 29 students and the number has grown more than tenfold. "As much as we want to have more students to be trained, we are also keeping in mind that we want to give each student sufficient time to connect with their teachers."

When asked what keeps his passion strong, Chaw shares that the secret lies in the fresh revelation he receives whenever he teaches the curriculum. Seeing the growth of the students every year also serves as a big encouragement to the SOT team, for example the SOT praise and worship team comprised of students. Says Chaw, "When the praise and worship team first starts leading the school, their skills and confidence may not be that high. However, by the end of the six-month course, they are able to stand on stage and lead an 8,000 strong crowd into the presence of God—that is major improvement and growth, honed through the six months of practice in SOT."

Chaw shares a memorable healing testimony of a graduate, Guo Peng. Guo suffered from a rare heart condition. Moments before a critical heart operation, for which doctors gave him a 20 percent chance of survival, he told Chaw, "My entire life is entrusted to God."

During the operation, Guo experienced moments of consciousness where he could hear the sounds in the operating theater. At one point, he heard an electronic flat-line, indicating that his heart had stopped beating. As he slipped back into unconsciousness, he heard the doctors say that he was gone. Against all odds, Guo woke up in hospital the next day—he had sur-

vived the operation. He attributed his recovery to the Word of God which pulled him back from the brink of death.

Chaw's vision for SOT in the next five years is to expand its international influence and to become a missions center for Asia.

He says, "I believe that internationally—and particularly in our region—SOT and CHC have a part to play in growing the Church of Jesus Christ. I feel that God has deposited something into our church, and we have to be faithful stewards to impart this to the body of Christ, outside the four walls of our church." Chaw hopes that SOT will become a "missions center" of Asia.

SOT HOMECOMING

To celebrate its 20th anniversary, SOT hosted its first ever Homecoming Service this past week. Global SOT alumni gathered for a grand reunion and basked in a time of fellowship and refreshing, catching fresh visions and being empowered to keep up their Kingdom work.

Says Chaw, "During SOT, students constantly dwell in an environment of prayer, praise and worship. They are often on fire. However, things can be very different back home. Through this Homecoming Service, we hoped to encourage the students, especially the international students, to renew their fire and vision for God."

THE FRUIT OF SOT

Indonesian Dimas Wibisono (right, in grey) graduated from City Harvest Church's School of Theology in 2010. Upon graduation, he applied what he had learned in SOT, and started reaching out to drug addicts in his hometown, Jakarta, by extending unconditional friendship and love. In time, as the relationships grew, Wibisono began to share with them testimonies, Biblical values and the love of Christ.

Explaining his motivation to *City News Weekly*, Wibisono says, "Through SOT, I have been transformed, having experienced Jesus and His love. I wanted to share this good news, the love of Christ, in my hometown."

For his faith, Wibisono suffered

opposition from those who refused to believe that Jesus loves outcasts. However, he remained unfazed, believing in the promise of God's love as written in the Bible.

Recounting the story of how he helped a close friend, who suffered drug addiction, walk through a difficult period in his life, Wibisono became to that friend a pillar of encouragement and a personal intercessor. He also shared with his friend his personal testimony of how God brought peace to him during his lowest point. In time, his friend opened up to the Lord and is today a successful lawyer, known for his integrity, an inspiration to many, and an



example of Christ in culture.

Says Wibisono, "I believe acceptance and unconditional love are the keys to transforming a person's life, because God is love, and where there is love, the power of God works."

PHOTO: DIMAS WIBISONO

COMMUNITY

CHCSA: Rethinking Community Service

City Harvest Community Services Association is the helping hand of CHC, but it has, in its 18 years, become much more than a community service body: it brings aid to society's needy and promotes positive values through volunteerism.

By SANDY POON

between the giver and the beneficiary remains 'us vs them', which is a very traditional mindset we hope to change.

"In our work, we aim to restore hope and build resilience in vulnerable populations; to build a community that is connected and compassionate." It is a bold—if unquantifiable—aim.

But if one is looking for numbers, CHCSA has them. "We reached out to 680 beneficiaries in 1997," says Loh. "Last year, we served 7,476 individuals." Loh works with a team of 12 full-time staff and 1,106 volunteers to serve these beneficiaries, who fall into different aspects of society. Aid is regardless of race, language or religion. CHCSA truly loves all, serves all.

Holding on to its belief that serving people is not just a duty but a passion, CHCSA has brought immeasurable impact to different demographics in society youth-at-risk, abandoned elderly, multiple sclerosis patients, the terminally-ill and HIV-positive patients.

CHCSA continually seeks to improve, streamline, finetune its processes in order to meet real needs more quickly and effectively and to bring help to people who aren't getting any. Core, traditional services remain today, such as financial aid and services to MS patients and HIV/Aids patients.

RETHINKING ELDERCARE
At the beginning of 2011, CHCSA expanded its services to the elderly by starting House of JOY (the acronym for "Joining the Old and the Young"), a centre focused on helping seniors to lead fulfilling and enriched lives especially in the sunset years. While there were other eldercare centers that actively reached out to residents of housing blocks who had been neglected or abandoned, HOJ wants to create a mindset shift—that the elderly can continue to be a contributing and vibrant part of community living.

Most afternoons, Mdm Goh, 93, to-

gether with eight other seniors and five volunteers sew away busily at the House Of Joy eldercare center. Some of the seniors that frequent the center first came to the attention of the agency about 10 years ago through Community Outreach Program to the Elderly (COPE), in which befrienders make weekly home visitations to the elderly and provide support, such as household maintenance and escort services to medical check-ups to more than 350 households each month. COPE is an interchurch initiative that has actively supported the underprivileged elderly citizens living in the Pine Close, Mountbatten and Old Airport Road estates.

With help from 120 volunteers, HOJ has reached 3,168 seniors since its opening. "We want to empower the elderly to live a healthy, well-balanced life that is fulfilling and well connected inter-generationally," explains Loh.

In August 2011, the 329 sqm-large HOJ center opened its doors to the elderly folks who were already familiar to the staff of the center. Housing a multi-purpose hall and activity room, meeting and counseling rooms, a multimedia and recreational room, a café operated by senior citizens, a KTV room and IT facilities, CHCSA continues to serve the senior citizens by providing counseling, in-house exercise programs, learning workshops and activities.

TRANSFORMING MINDSETS

Two years after the opening of HOJ, CHCSA launched into another project to benefit the community at large. Red Nose is a volunteer-driven movement that aims to promote better living through love and laughter through various events and initiatives. Supported by Singapore Kindness Movement, Red Nose presents an opportunity for CHCSA to rope Singaporeans in to support and care for needy individuals, as well as to promote kindness and care throughout society. Since 2013, Red Nose has launched 55 initiatives of love and laughter events, reaching 3,937 beneficiaries and 19,771 participants.

Loh reveals that this year, Red Nose continues to focus on engaging the community through activities such as "I Hug", which encourages displays of affection for family members, for example, "I Hug My Mom"; Little Acts of Kindness, in which Singaporeans are urged to perform kind acts such as holding a door open for a stranger; and Red Dish, a community food program where diners can pay in cash or in service to

the community.

"Red Nose is CHCSA's community projects arm. While we used to have volunteers conduct 'home makeovers' for one-room-flat dwellers, that now comes under Red Nose's 'Paint The Town Red' initiative," she explains. "Red Nose offers many opportunities for the community to get involved in changing their world for good."

Singapore is not a welfare state, notes Loh, yet there is more and more money being pumped into helping the poor. It is a good thing, she says, as it frees up organizations like CHCSA to look beyond physical and financial needs. "CHCSA's vision is to build inclusive and resilient communities," says Loh, underscoring the need for greater social responsibility across society. "We want people to stand on their own feet, to be empowered find solutions to their issues. We believe that each community has the resources within it to meet the needs and solve the problems that each individual may face."

Citing recent instances of xenophobia and segregation in Singapore, Loh points out that Singapore is a nation historically comprised of migrants. "When our nation first started, who cared if you were a *mata* or a *samsui* woman, if you came from India or China? Everyone deserved respect and possessed dignity. So why do we think differently now? Have we forgotten who we are? Red Nose wants to help change this in two ways: first, we change the way we help others by treating them as equal, not inferior to us. Second, we blur the line between 'us' and 'them'." She admits it is an ongoing conversation for CHCSA, but one worth developing.

It's not a traditional approach to community service, but Loh emphasizes this: "CHCSA has always wanted to be relevant in society. We may have adjusted our approach since Church Without Walls to meet evolving needs, but it remains our motto to touch hearts and change lives."

Red Dish



Red Nose Theatre

In the first decade of its existence, City Harvest Community Services Association actively provided help and resources to many needy demographics, from low-income families to children-at-risk. Today, 18 years since it was first founded, CHCSA continues to provide to some of these, but what sets this community services body apart from most is its big thinking: its encompassing vision is to help the community at large to live a better life physically, mentally and emotionally.

Built on a firm foundation of love and a genuine passion to help society, one person at a time, CHCSA has made a difference to 78,041 beneficiaries since it was first registered as a society on Aug 16, 1997.

While many are familiar with the idea of a "hand up and not a hand out", CHCSA aims to take things a step further: "Let's make that a hand shake," says Darryl Loh, the association's Executive Director. "Right now, the relationship

COMMUNITY

CHURCH WITHOUT WALLS MADE FLESH

In 1995, Kong Hee, the senior pastor of City Harvest Church, returned from a conference in Hawaii to share with his congregation a God-breathed message of building a church without walls. The message powerfully communicated the importance of bringing God's love and compassion to all who need it in society. It sparked off a chain of community outreach efforts that touched the lives of the elderly and the intellectually disabled, among other groups.

Birthing out of the vision to find a need and meet it, to find a hurt and heal it, Church Without Walls was officially registered as City Harvest Community Services Association in August 1997.

Among the works of CHCSA in its 18-year history which are now undertaken by different ministries within the church are KITE (Kids In Total Embrace), which offers a full spectrum of programs for children; RAYZ, an initiative to help the intellectually-challenged and M3 (Mighty Men in the Making), which helps men who have been incarcerated or are in rehabilitation.



WALKING OUT OF LONELINESS

Mdm Tay, 54 and Mr Ong, 61 are an elderly couple that House Of JOY has been reading out to since Mar 15, 2013. When workers from HOJ first visited them, Ong had diagnosed with terminal liver cancer and Tay had multiple sicknesses. They have no children and their relationships with relatives were strained.

Tay was not very mobile as a result of a stroke, and she had a leg condition that made walking short distances excruciating. Her husband works odd jobs to earn as much money as he can while he is still active, and she would often be left alone. When she discovered that her husband was terminally ill, Tay fell into depression. The couple also struggled with paying their medical bills as they were not fully subsidized.

Upon learning of their situation, the HOJ team put together resources to help them. One of the staff gathered necessary documents like medical certificates from the doctor and resubmitted Ong's insurance claims. At the same time, the staff also wrote in to Central Provident Fund to allow Ong to use his Medisave fund for full coverage of his medical bills. Knowing that Tay has depression and weak legs, HOJ roped in social workers to counsel her and a trained physiotherapy assistant to help her practice leg strengthening exercises. HOJ also engaged a homecare nurse to do regular health checks and monitor the couple's conditions.

The staff also found out that the couple had not left the house for the past few decades because of their health conditions. So the staff and volunteers arranged to bring the couple out to the SEA Aquarium on wheelchairs. During Valentine's Day last year, HOJ staff set up a special candlelight luncheon at HOJ to give them an opportunity to relive their dating days. At the end of the luncheon, the staff taught the couple how to do scrapbooking with photos from their SEA Aquarium trip—these were the first photos they had taken in many years.

To help Tay increase her social interaction, a kind donor paid for a wheelchair for her so that she can leave her house and participate in social activities held at HOJ. Now, the couple actively participate in HOJ activities two to three times a week. Their quality of life has improved due to the successful financial assistance application. Most importantly, they found meaningful relationships at HOJ. Tay has since come out of depression.

CHCSA In Numbers



HOUSE OF JOY ELDERCARE CENTRE

Situated at Pine Close, HOJ provides social services to the older population to promote long learning to the elderly, and provide them with a community to belong in.

- ▷ **2,013** elderly persons benefited from HOJ services in 2013
- ▷ **1,718** elderly persons are visited by volunteers and staff
- ▷ **394** elderly persons took part in in-house programs
- ▷ **12** in-house program were organized



POD/RED NOSE

Formed in 2007, POD provided holistic care and development opportunities for youth, giving them the opportunity to be equipped with life skills. CHCSA also invests into various community initiatives such as a mobile blood donation program and home makeover projects for the less fortunate. In 2013, these initiatives became part of the Red Nose Movement, together with Red Dish, a community food program that allows diners to pay what they like for a meal, in cash or community acts. The more one pays for a meal, the more free meals Red Dish can provide.

- ▷ **32** homes of the underprivileged received a makeover
- ▷ **728** people donated blood successfully
- ▷ **3,937** people benefitted from the POD/Red Nose initiatives



FAMILY SERVICES

Family Services provides financial aid and social-emotional counseling to needy families in order to strengthen resilience within the family units.

- ▷ **180** families benefited in 2013
- ▷ **1,629** people were contacted by volunteer workers
- ▷ **\$63,553** was disbursed through financial assistance



PATIENT CARE SERVICES

CHCSA provides services to the people suffering from multiple sclerosis through MS Care and people who are terminally ill through FIRST Hand.

- ▷ **230** clients assisted by First Hand in 2013
- ▷ **51** clients assisted by MS Care
- ▷ **6,744** clients were contacted by volunteers and workers

MARKETPLACE

Salt And Light In The

One of the pillars City Harvest Church is built on is the Cultural Mandate: to engage culture for Christ in the different spheres of society, to be the best they can be and to bring redemptive value to society. Here are some of such members from CHC Singapore and its affiliate and arts and entertainment.

By **YONG YUNG SHIN**

Arts and Entertainment



◀ **Jack Neo**
Film Director
(Singapore)

Directed *Ah Boys To Men* Parts 1 and 2, which became Singapore's highest grossing films of all time: Part 1, released in November 2012, earned \$6.2m; while the second part, which premiered in February 2013, grossed \$7.9m at the box office.



◀ **Charissa Chong**
Beauty Queen
(Malaysia)

- Represented Malaysia in Miss International 2013 (Japan) and World Miss University 2014 (Korea)
- Won subtitle of Miss Courteous in Miss Global International Malaysia 2013 / 2014



◀ **Edwin Low**

Art Designer (Singapore)
• President's Design Award 2013 winner
• Founder of art store/ studio SUPERMAMA



▲ **Philip Chew Tiong Beng**

First runner-up (400m race), 8th Special Olympics Singapore National Games



▶ **Sean Lee**
Photographer
(Singapore)

- Winner of ICON de Martell Cordon Bleu photography competition 2011
- Author of *the parallel lives of Sean Lee*

▶ **Chronicles Ong Fuying of Fuying & Sam**

Singer (Malaysia)

- 2013 AIM 中文音乐颁奖典礼 新人奖 铜奖 [2013 AIM Chinese Music Awards - Best Newcomer (Bronze)]
- 2013 Neway 我最喜爱杰出新入奖 金奖 [2013 Neway Awards - Best Newcomer (Gold)]
- 2014 全球流行音乐金榜新人奖 银奖 [2014 Global Chinese Golden Chart - Best Newcomer (Silver)]



◀ **Caren Tan**
Blogger, Blogshop
Owner and Emcee
(Malaysia)

- Lifestyle blogger at www.careentan.com
- Founder of Chiq Fliq, Malaysian Online
- Fashion Boutique at www.chiqfliq.com
- Emcee/Host

◀ **Belinda Lee**

Actress and Television Host
(Singapore)

- Star Awards Top Ten Most Popular Female Artists 2014 and 2013
- Star Awards Best Infotainment Host and Best Shape award 2013



▼ **Axel Toh**

Student (Singapore)

Winner of Pilot Pen National Age Group (Boys Under 9) Singles 2014 Badminton Tournament



▶ **Nicholas Gan**

Entrepreneur
(Malaysia)

- Director and Co-founder of EGan Equipments and Parts SB
- Prestige Top 40 Under 40, Young Entrepreneur Award 2013
- People's Choice Award 2013



▲ **Stanley van der Meulen**

Author (Indonesia)

- His novel, *Me And You Versus The World* was a best-seller in Indonesia, awarded as Best Fiction work for 2012 and 2014 by Gramedia, the biggest bookstore chain in Indonesia; subsequently made into a movie and screened nationwide in April 2014.
- Currently collaborating with top Indonesian guitarist Piyu to write novels inspired by his songs.



◀ **Kenneth Leong Chee Qwen** Banker (Malaysia)

- Relationship Manager, Business Banking for Maybank Bangsar
- Awarded Best Employee Award: The Young Maybanker Award in 2013 for Maybank Region Selangor & Negeri Sembilan
- Two-time nominee for Best Employee Award: The Young Maybanker Award in 2013 & 2014 for Maybank Group Awards (International).



▶ **Miguel Antonio Vedanaigam**

Singer
(Singapore)

Performed with Black Eyed Peas members at "Rebuild!" Benefit Concert for Filipino victims of Typhoon Haiyan, held at the Greek Theatre in Los Angeles in June 2014.

MARKETPLACE

Marketplace

Like great Bible heroes Daniel and Esther, CHC's members are called churches, who blaze a trail in business, education, government, media

Government



◀ Nala Widya

Pastor and National Sports Manager (Indonesia)

- Senior Pastor of Elshaddai Creative Community (Bandung)
- Manager of the National Indonesian Athletes Committee at 16th National Athlete Festival 2004 in Palembang
- Coach of the Indonesian Youth Cycling Team 2011

▶ Tan Chooi Peck

Operating Theater Nurse (Singapore)

Winner of the Healthcare Humanity Award 2014 from the Ministry of Health.

▶ Johnny Seragih

Pastor and Social Worker (Indonesia)

Received Medal of Appreciation in 2013 from the Indonesian government for his social work through the Bukit Doa Harvest Rehabilitation Center.

◀ Julian Tan Kok Ping

Member of Parliament and Technopreneur (Malaysia)

- Technopreneur & Director, Centaurus Technology Pte. Ltd.
- 2013 Elected as Member of Parliament Malaysia
- 2012 IEEE International Conference & Project Exhibition, Gold Medal
- 2009 ITEX (International Innovation and Technology Exhibition), Gold Medal

Media

▼ Edmund Tay

Pastor and Blogger (Singapore)

- Member of Media Literacy Council
- Finalist for Singapore Blog Awards (Best Family Blog) 2011, 2012, 2013
- Panel speaker at MOE Excel Fest 2013 on Parenting in the 21st Century



▲ Choong Kar Heng and Choong Kar Wai

Entrepreneurs (Malaysia)

Directors and co-founders of CoffeeSociété (awarded Best Place for Coffee in Kuala Lumpur 2013) and Garage 51

◀ Nico Fernando

Banker (Malaysia)

- Malayan Banking Berhad (Maybank)
- 2014: Valedictorian of Victoria University Sunway Campus
- 2013: 1st Runner-up of Maybank Go Ahead Challenge



◀ Troy Lim, Creative Director (Singapore)

- Voted by peers as one of Singapore's Most Influential Creative Directors 2013/14
- Silver and Bronze Lions at Cannes International Festival of Creativity (2014)
- Gold Effies Awards for I QUIT (anti-smoking campaign), STB Gems and Action for AIDS.

Education

◀ Kenny Low & Ryan Lim

Founders, O School (Singapore)

- Marina Bay Sands' charity of choice 2012.
- Performed at President's Star Charity 2013.
- Produced and performed dance extravaganza Wonderment at MBS in 2013



(From top)

▲ Nicodemus Lim

Social Worker (Singapore)

- Prime Minister's Australia Asia Postgraduate Award winner; currently pursuing a PhD in social work
- Headed the elderly support service (COMNET) of the Ang Mo Kio Family Service Centres, whose befriending service was highlighted in the Committee of Supply Budget Debate

Carol Loi, Assistant Director (Engagement) at the Ministry of Education (Singapore)

Represents MOE in the Child Development Network's Public Education and Outreach Sub-Committee.

Ng Yeow Ling, Principal of Westwood Primary School (Singapore)

- Member of Academy of Principals (Singapore)
- Awarded Public Service Medal (Bronze) in 2011

Jacelyn Tay, Celebrity Health Coach and Actress (Singapore)

- Founder of Body Inc. Integrated Medicine
- 2004 - Straits Times Bestseller List Author
- Top 10 Most Popular Female Artiste at Star Awards - 1998, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005



Sabrina Goh, Fashion Designer (Singapore)

Represented Singapore at the Asia Federation Fashion Show at Biff & Bil 2014 Bangkok

MARKETPLACE

Hope Of One Song, One Voice

City Harvest Church members Elim Chew and Miguel Antonio Vedanaigam partnered with Apl.de.Ap of The Black Eyed Peas to raise funds for Typhoon Haiyan victims at a benefit concert in LA.

By YONG YUNG SHIN



PHOTO: SAM VEDANAIGAM

Vedanaigam and Chew with Apl.de.Ap and Keith Harris.

On June 8 this year, 13-year-old musical prodigy Miguel Antonio Vedanaigam received an invitation to perform at a benefit concert at the Greek Theater in Los Angeles, organized by the Black Eyed Peas member, Apl.de.Ap. The concert, titled USA for Rebuild! Philippines, was held to raise funds for rehabilitation efforts in the Philippines, particularly in areas affected by Typhoon

Haiyan last November.

Despite technical hiccups, Vedanaigam coolly went on to wow the 5,000-strong audience with his heartfelt delivery of "Hope Of One Voice", an original song by fellow CHC member and social entrepreneur Elim Chew, written for the Philippines disaster relief effort. He also performed Billy Joel's "Piano Man".

"Hope Of One Voice" was birthed out of a dream Chew had

four years ago. While attending the Apec Women Entrepreneurs Summit in Japan in Oct 2010, she awoke one night with a vision of a flood. She penned down the lyrics and sent them to her singer-songwriter friend, Cat Ong, who added melody to the words. In Dec 2013, she emailed the song to a friend, Joel Santos, who works closely with the Apl.de.Ap Foundation. The rapper

loved the song and invited her to sing it at the concert—Chew roped in Vedanaigam to be her voice. She says, "It's been four years since that dream. God has His own timing and I'm thankful He revealed His vision for a great cause and destiny."

Vedanaigam, son to a Singaporean father and a Filipino mother, was more excited than nervous when he got news of the performance, which he prepared for within a week, with the help of his music teacher. The best part "was the feeling of "having 5,000 people stand up and cheer me on after I finished singing."

Other performers that night include LA-based indie rock group The Little Ones, the Philippine Chamber Singers of Los Angeles, YouTube sensation AJ Rafael and hip hop dance crew JabbaWocKeez. Along with the Black Eyed Peas band members, Will.I.am and Taboo, Apl.de.Ap, who is American-Filipino, wrapped up the night with popular hits such as "Let's Get It Started," "Bebot," and "I Gotta Feeling."

Vedanaigam has previously performed at 2011's David Foster and Friends Concert

in Singapore. He also starred in the dance-and-song extravaganza *Wonderment*, produced by O School and performed at Marina Bay Sands last November.

He is currently managed by Apl.de.Ap's record label and production company, BMBX (pronounced "boombox") Entertainment, which focuses on promoting Southeast Asian talent. BMBX's other artists include 17-year-old Jessica Reynoso, who performed at The Voice Philippines 2013, and TheLionCityBoy aka Kevin Lester, a veteran hip hop artist/rapper from Singapore.

Using their God-given visions and talents to aid the needy is a privilege to Chew and Vedanaigam. "As we come together to give help to the afflicted, we give them back their hope for their lives," says Chew.

Fund-raising efforts are still on-going. T-shirts collaboratively designed by OuterEdit and Legendary Social Tee are sold at 77th Street outlets. Twenty percent of sales go to Apl.de.ap Foundation's Rebuild! Philippines.



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CONGRATULATIONS TO

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FOR 25 GLORIOUS YEARS!

Advertorial



From brick to click business

Adelene Yin has never started a business before. After she has completed her studies, she has worked for several companies before calling it quit. The main reasons she cited was no luck with promotion, increment and advancement opportunities. Henceforth, she decided to start her own business.

Based on her findings, Adelene found out that a lot of young people like to wear their own design t-shirt to create their unique identity; a different design for different occasion. Seeing the great opportunity in this market segment, she started off with a traditional way of doing a printing t-shirt business with no prior knowledge and experiences. She is entering the school of hard knocks, learning all the essential skillsets by her own. Her job scope includes but not limited to designing t-shirt for her customers, get it printed at the printing shop, and deliver to her customers. As business starts to grow, she finds it very tedious having to do this repeatedly. Her workload is ever increasing (working as much as 18 hours a day). At some point of time, she was contemplating to give up the business even though the business is bringing in profit.

Earlier this year, Adelene was visiting an exhibition. There, she chanced upon PRINTATEE (by Get Real Business Group) booth. After the interaction and live demonstration by the business consultant, Adelene was stunned. She realized that she has been “merry go round” in her business. She never expects this T-Shirt printing business could be streamlined to just a few mouse click from ordering, designing to fulfillment. Her involvement in the business is at the bare minimum. Without hesitation, she took up the business opportunity.

GET REAL

Ms Adelene Yin, 20+, first time entrepreneur (Currently owns 3 businesses)

Exclusive Interview

Conducted by Get Real Business Group

GR: Get Real, AY: Adelene Yin

GR: When did you start using this portal?

AY: March this year.

GR: Can you share one interesting experience with the “click” business?

AY: There was one in particular which I receive last month. The customer had ordered 3 t-shirts and each of them has an upside down statement saying ‘NEVER GIVE UP’, ‘REACHING SOON’ & ‘I CAN DO IT’. As the order was from Malaysia, I was worried that the customer had made a mistake on the design, I called him to clarify. The customer had confirmed that there was no mistake. Out of curiosity, I asked him why must he design it this way. He explained that he is a regular jogger and in this way, he will be able to read easily by looking downward while jogging. These motivational statement will keep him going. I was amazed by the thought behind these designs. Customers are indeed more creative. I wouldn't have thought of this design myself.

GR: What convince you to transform your “brick” to a “click” business?

AY: I some researching and have found out that industry leader like threadless.com had made sales of \$30 million, selling an average of 110,000 shirts per month. If we place a conservative estimate of 5% market share, that extrapolates to a market volume of at least \$600 million. I wouldn't mind if I have a revenue of just 0.001% (US\$60,000) of the market volume annually, would I?

GR: What's your greatest benefits from this business?

AY: After my business is transformed from a traditional business to an online business, I have gained time & freedom to reach out to more customers. Now my customers come from around the globe. I no longer need to design for customer, all thanks to the build-in eDesigner. I don't even need get involve in production and delivery. Totally different from what I originally did. I am glad that my business model has been streamlined.

Do you want to know how Adelene's t-shirt business has been transformed? Do you want to know the secret of running a business without having to worry about overheads, inventory & logistic?

Stop wondering and start taking action! Join us for a business sharing and find out more how you can also benefit.

GET REAL

Interested to find out more? SMS or Whatsapp to +65 8484 2777

EYE ON SOCIETY

One To Change The World

It is in the DNA of City Harvest Church members to “find a need and meet it, find a hurt and heal it.” These two new social initiatives by CHC members mark a rising trend.

By **DAWN SEOW**

Renowned sociologist Margaret Mead famously said: “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it’s the only thing that ever has.”

The trend of social responsibility is gaining traction fast today. According to the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Centre, Singaporeans donated a record \$11 million in 2013 to various charities and projects.

Social initiatives are not new to City Harvest Church. It all began with the Church Without Walls movement in 1996. Members were taught to “find a need and meet it, find a hurt and heal it”. This became a mantra that many members continue to live by today, giving rise to a number of social initiatives in recent years, among them 8 Fahrenheit, an ice cream shop set up by CHC members in the a polytechnic campus to help needy students earn a living; Teddy ‘N’ Thotz at Vivocity that sells craftwork done by elderly folks; and Soule, a shoe company donates shoes to children in Third World countries.

Some early initiatives by members have grown into extended organizations of CHC. City College was started in 2002 by member Kenny Low (left) as a not-for-profit organization to help youths who cannot continue their academic

career in a mainstream secondary school. Subsequently, Low also founded O School, a dance academy that uses dance as a platform to reach out to youths.

One of CHC’s first social entrepreneurs, Low has a deep passion for the “rejects” in society. started College

he realized that many school dropouts still had a burning desire to make something of their lives. The school offers a second chance at education and also support for students to overcome their personal challenges.



Cindy Koh with some of the Birthday In A Box treats for kids.

“The concept of social entrepreneurship is very much in line with Jesus’ call to us to be salt and light, and to reach out to those in need,” Low says. “To bring restoration and healing to certain people, groups, values and causes, that’s being salt; to allow these restorations and healing to be visible and inspirational by connecting them to the marketplace, that’s being light.”

GIFTING BIRTHDAY PARTIES

CHC members think of doing good wherever and however they can. Cindy Koh chanced upon the idea of Birthday In A Box when she met a 14-year-old who had never celebrated her birthday. Taking a leaf from American charity The Birthday Box, Koh has created 21 birthday celebrations for needy children so far. The 31-year-old social worker put together the first birthday in a box for a 7-year-old boy in February this year. She worked with Lakeside Family Service Centre to provide a cake, a gift, a balloon and a card. The parents wrote a birthday message in the card, wrapped the present up and held a celebration for their son. For once, the boy was the star of a birthday party and had something to give away—his birthday cake.

“The case worker told me that after the party, the boy became more confident. In the past, he would hide in a corner whenever she visited him and refuse to talk. After the party, he became more open and even showed her how to play



PHOTOS: CINDY KOH

with the toys he received. I didn’t expect the birthday box to have this kind of impact on the child, but it did,” said Koh.



Alvin Low (center) with his JUMP team.

JUMPING WITH HOPE

Alvin Low, 31, is another social entrepreneur who believes in bringing restoration to those who have lost hope and helping them live a purposeful life.

He founded JUMP Production in 2011, with a vision to provide a platform for young people to live out

their dreams.

He was looking for ways to engage the young people in mainstream schools when he found that many schools were looking for dance programs. He immediately roped in a dancer friend from church and planned a dance program for schools. JUMP’s first assignment was Mayflower Secondary School: a team of nine dancers taught students over four days. On the last day, each class put on a dance showcase.

“The students really enjoyed themselves and I realized that dance is a very good way to engage students and communicate with them. I also saw the potential of a viable business,” Low said.

The events organization now provides, as a school co-curricular activity, dance programs for seven secondary schools and six primary schools. They also started RE:volution, which uses dance as a platform to reach out to at-risk youths.

“Dancers are a testimony to living a dream because of the alternative career path they have chosen,” Low points out. “Our dance instructors share their experiences with the students and encourage them to believe in their dreams. Many students come from traditional Chinese families and their parents are not so encouraging with their words, so they’re grateful that someone believed in them.”

As CHC member and founder of retail chain 77th Street, Elim Chew, whose name is synonymous with youth, social enterprise and transforming society for good, puts it: “If you have money, give money. If you have time, give time. If you have talent, give talent. Your money, time and talent will be multiplied and

you’ll be amazed at how you can be a changemaker and impact lives with what you have been given. Someday, you will find that it will be all given back to you when you need it most!

“Rise up and be the change you want to be. Yours will be the generation that is driven by a greater purpose.”

PHOTO: JUMP PRODUCTIONS

Advertorial

Same person. Two different lifestyles. One breakthrough.

Wake up at 6am. Reach office at 9am. Busy till lunchtime. Sleepy after lunchtime. Praying time will pass faster. Knock off at 6pm. Hate Mondays.

Does this sound familiar to you? Well, it certainly does to Daniel as this had been going on for 5 years, since he began as a sales engineer.

Daniel graduated with a degree in Mechanical Engineering and works in a lighting house as a sales engineer. Like most people, he believed that to work in a field that he graduated in was the only way to have a stable career and income stream.

However, things have become very routine and he has nothing to look forward to in his job everyday. He has lost his motivation to work and his performance has been badly hit.

Daniel figures that he needs to change his environment, perhaps by finding a new job. But then, he was caught in a dilemma: he could move on to a new company and maintain the same job scope. Alternatively, he could explore a new industry but suffer reduction in. He felt stuck and hopeless in his situation.

One day, Daniel saw a Facebook post about a mobile app training program offered by SET-AN-APP. He was already familiar with mobile apps, mainly through the games he played on his smartphone, but he was curious as to how businesses use mobile apps to improve their sales and marketing efforts. So he brought a couple of friends and attended a business preview offered by SET-AN-APP.

During the preview, the speaker showed him the uncapped opportunities in this market. The demand for mobile app development is increasing but there is currently a shortage of developers. The 5-day training program would equip him with the necessary skills to negotiate deals and earn a reasonable income. Out of desperation for a breakthrough in his career, Daniel signed up for the training program without any hesitation.

Barely two weeks after the training, he earned more than \$47,000 by developing mobile apps. Optimistic that he could continue doing well, Daniel resigned from his sales engineer job.

These days, his typical schedule runs like this: wake up at 8am. Have breakfast with client at 10am. Collect payment from client at 1pm. Bank in the cheque before 3pm. Hang out with friends in the evening. Watch soccer at 2am. Love every single day.



GET REAL Mr Daniel Lee, 30+, first-time entrepreneur (currently owns more than 5 businesses)

Exclusive Interview

Conducted by Get Real Business Group
GR: Get Real; D: Daniel

GR: Do you think that it's too risky to have a career change, especially when you are considered quite well paid?

D: Well, if you want a breakthrough in your life, I think there are certain decisions that you have to make to step out of your comfort zone. Most people are just too comfortable with the job that they are doing and forget that there are plenty of opportunities for them to explore.

GR: What are the challenges of stepping out to be an entrepreneur?

D: The number one thing to do is to overcome your limiting beliefs. Most of the time, our minds are too cluttered with negative thoughts that are stopping us from being successful. We've got to stop telling ourselves that 'I can't do it', 'other people are luckier than me', 'I am not a boss material', etc. After all, if we don't believe in ourselves, nobody will.

GR: So why a mobile app business?

D: I came to know that a well-known local brand like Pastamania had pioneered mobile app ordering to improve their business. The trend is moving away from website to mobile apps. Businesses will need a mobile app to connect with their customers more closely. Hence, I felt that there is a huge market for

mobile app development.

GR: Does the business yield enough profit for you to quit your full time job?

D: Oh, yes. The current market rate for a mobile app is between \$10k to \$15k. I earn a huge margin out of that. Of course, I am not saying that everyone should quit their job and do this business. But even if you were going to do this on a part-time basis, earning a few thousand dollars extra every month should not be a problem at all.

GR: How does the SET-AN-APP mobile app training program help to kick-start your business?

D: The beauty of this training program is that there is no coding or programming needed. People who do not know a single thing about IT can still learn through their easy-to-understand training classes. Not only did they teach me how to build a mobile app, they also provided a comprehensive sales training for me to successfully close a deal.

Inspired to explore into the mobile app business? Wonder how Daniel can earn \$47,000 in just two weeks?

Stop wondering and start taking action! Join us for a business sharing and find out more how you can also benefit from the SET-AN-APP mobile app training program.

GET REAL

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EYE ON SOCIETY

24 Superb Dancers

Super 24, conceptualized by O School, brings a new dimension to dance competitions in Singapore.

By **DAWN SEOW**



PHOTO: O SCHOOL

Runners up at this year's Super 24 from Tanglin Secondary.

It was a dance competition like no other. Twenty-four dancers had to perform a strictly 90-second routine within an eight by eight meter square with judges watching from all four sides.

"Super 24 is designed to allow participants to experience teamwork and unity," says Kenny Low, director of O School, the dance school and social enterprise that conceptualized the competition. "The tight space for the 24 dancers to work with and

the four-sided judging platform illustrates the story of Singapore's ability to turn the constraints into advantages by tapping on its most valuable resources. When the dancers coordinate and complement each other within the square, magic happens."

The judges look for teamwork, choreography, musicality and skills displayed by the competitors. The team that best exemplifies adaptability, creativity and unity will win the competition and title of "Super 24".

Challenging as it may sound, Super 24 attracted about 1,000 dancers to showcase their moves on Jun. 8 at the Suntec Convention Halls 601-604. In collaboration with the National Youth Council, the competition was highly anticipated by the dance community. Tickets to the competition were sold out four days before the event and the competition hall was filled with 3,000 dance enthusiasts grooving together with the dance teams.

The audiences were also treated to guest performances by international dance teams Quick Crew, winner of *Norway's Got Talent* and *Mortal Combat*, the three-time *Japan Dance Delight* champions. Jazz-funk band Funki Munkees also entertained the crowd together with local dance team, Lion City Lockers.

Besides the 19 teams participating in the open category (which consisted of dancers from tertiary institution dance clubs and dance hobbyists), the competition also attracted the participation of 21 schools in the secondary school category.

"We observed that while many teams set out to gain top results in the contest, they eventually realized that the journey was more valuable than the outcome," Low tells *City News Weekly*.

"It's inspiring to see the creativity, resilience and energy emerging from such a stressful competition. It's also heartening to hear that the youths had learned to value the journey and relationships with their

teammates more than the outcome of the competition."

The young dancers took to social media with their thoughts and feelings about Super 24. Natalie (@nataliegohome) of North Vista Secondary School posted on Instagram after the competition, "Those 3 km runs that seemed endless, the muscle aches and the blood and sweat you guys put through for today's achievement has all paid off."

Ivy (@v_vivy) of D3, the winner of the open category, said on Instagram, "We are only the champion because we bent over, drench in sweat, at the point of exhaustion when nobody is looking."

Following the dance competition, O School took the dancers back to their schools to inspire their fellow schoolmates.

"The post-event roadshows are designed to allow the participating school teams to showcase their piece to their school," Low explained. "It also aims to introduce the mechanics and the values of the competition to the rest of the school."

Once the rest of the student body sees what the dance team can do they would hopefully develop an interest and appreciation for dance, says Low.

"We aim to develop Super 24 into a contest garnering wide interest and participation from mainstream schools. We had 21 schools participating in the secondary category this year—we hope to reach 100 schools in five years."

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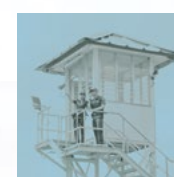
RELIABILITY

INNOVATION

DISCIPLINE

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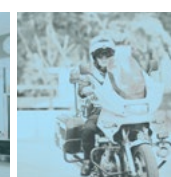
OUR KEY SERVICES



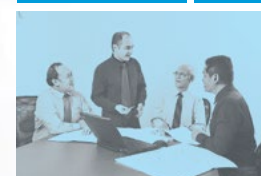
INFRASTRUCTURE PROTECTION



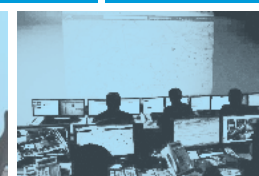
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EYE ON SOCIETY

Building Cities That Care

Set up to encourage Singaporeans to volunteer and give back to society, CityCare has turned doing good into an attraction for corporations and volunteers.

By **DAWN SEOW**



PHOTOS: CITYCARE

CityCare distributed 100 bicycles to a school in Cambodia.

Fuelled by the vision of a culture of doing good in Singapore, Tan Ye Peng founded CityCare with a group of young profes-

sionals in 2007. The not-for-profit organization aims to promote active citizenry by providing volunteering opportunities

for organizations and individuals to demonstrate social responsibility towards the community. For his efforts, Tan was named an Outstanding Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum in 2010.

Much ground has been covered in the last seven years. Today, CityCare works with volunteers, schools, corporations, voluntary welfare organizations and non-profits in Singapore and overseas to transform communities. Last year, it was named one of two Points of Light Network affiliates in Singapore. An international organization founded by former US president George Bush, PLN works to engage more people and resources in solving serious social problems through voluntary service. It mobilizes millions of people through affiliates in about 250 cities. Through the POL Network, CityCare has worked with organizations such as Hilton Group Worldwide, VISA and Moody's Analytics.

Executive director of CityCare, Tammy Lim, explains: "CityCare wants to be a light in the world by promoting a culture of doing good. Our mission is to empower volunteers to bring about social change in the society. Bringing civic education into schools has been a very rewarding journey as we have witnessed young people growing in their passion to make a difference in their world. Our collaboration with various corporations in their community investment projects has also grown into strong strategic partnerships."

In June 2013, CityCare distributed 100 bicycles sponsored by Blackstone Singapore and 176 school bags and stationery sets sponsored by COURTS Singapore to Say Samorn Primary School in Cambodia. Since 2012, a total of 35 volunteers

have helped more than 1,276 children through CityCare's Cambodian humanitarian projects.

CityCare's overseas humanitarian efforts began in 2007 with a series of educational and humanitarian projects in under-served communities in China, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. Through volunteer effort and funding, CityCare has aided in the construction and refurbishment of seven primary schools in these countries, and conducted medical relief trips to Haiti and the Philippines. Some of these efforts have been in partnership with City Harvest Church.

On home ground, CityCare serves its mission of promoting volunteerism and philanthropy across a number of sectors. In schools, it offers community service programs that fit into the Ministry of Education's Values In Action program—students benefit from the specially-designed experiential learning programs that cover topics such as social responsibility, leadership and social entrepreneurship. Since 2007, CityCare has worked with more than 120 schools, providing training programs to 17,400 students.

On a tertiary level, CityCare has four university Caretalyt Clubs—Caretalyts are CityCare volunteers, named to reflect a catalyst of change in the community. CityCare has empowered a total of 4,502 Caretalyts, who have helped 16,705 beneficiaries locally, in partnership with 145 voluntary welfare organizations. In May this year, the organization held its first Leaders' Summit for Caretalyt leaders with the aim of expanding the capacity of these leaders.

Lim says, "I want CityCare to be a premier organization that corporations and schools want to work with. CityCare also plans to organize an annual signature conference to provide a platform for civic-minded organizations and volunteers to come together to spur one another towards greater change in society."

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CityCare offers Values In Action programs in mainstream schools.

LIFESTYLE

25 Things In A Missionary's Bag

In Luke 9:3, as Jesus was sending His disciples out on their first mission trips, He said, "Take nothing with you for your trip. Do not take a walking stick, or a bag ... and do not take two shirts." While not as austere, pastors Bobby Chaw and Tan Kim Hock—who made about 20 mission trips in 2013—sure know how to travel light. We pry into their bags to find out what their travelling essentials are.

By YONG YUNG SHIN

BOBBY CHAW

Dean of Students (School of Theology), Missions Director



Garment bag All my shirts are folded and put inside this bag to minimize creases. The bags come in various sizes for my other items such as shorts and socks.

Belt A staple of any decently dressed gentleman's outfit.



Cash and card holder I always carry my United Airlines frequent flyer card because each time you clock your miles, the previous miles get renewed too. After eight years, I had enough miles to redeem three tickets to USA for my family. So always clock your miles even if you don't fly often!

Thumbdrive I carry two: one for PowerPoint slides and another for videos of our church and ministries; a picture paints a thousand words but through a video people capture the vision of how we do church.



Wireless router

This little item is important. Some hotels only have LAN lines and not wi-fi facilities. So when I have this set up in my room, all my devices have internet connection.



Earphones These are noise-cancelling ones.

Power cables/ sockets/ adapters This is my "portable office," good enough for every country I go to: a basic extension cord, a multi-purpose socket and local adapters which I throw into a bag.



iPod My "on-going Bible school education", with sermons by Pastor (Kong Hee), Dr AR Bernard, Phil Pringle and Elder He.



iPad I use this mainly for preaching. There are hundreds of sermons in it! I also use it for WeChat with my family when I'm overseas, the video quality is good!

Laptop I used to have to carry research books and concordances around. When you're on long 14-day mission trips, it is very cumbersome. Nowadays, everything is in this laptop!



TAN KIM HOCK

Academic Dean (School of Theology)

Five People You Meet In Heaven by Mitch Albom
I like to bring a book when I travel, especially those that are inspiring and with good anecdotes.



The Bible I've had this NKJV Bible for 10 to 15 years.

Jacket I like the design; the words say "rebel spirit" but I prefer to think of it as "daring to be different."



Waistpouch Stores all my local currency, passport and other important documents. It's the safest way—so far, I haven't lost anything!



Track shoes They're light, can be packed flat, and double as slippers!



Hair clay Water-based so that it's more easily washed off and thus gentler on the hair!



Lozenges I don't fall sick often, but when I get a scratchy throat, these are great.



Piriton flu pills I take this when I feel like I'm coming down with something, it knocks you out for a good sleep!



Contact lenses and solution Very, very important to maintain good contact lens hygiene.



Bag of toiletries My shower gel, facial wash and shampoo, all contained refillable 100ml bottles, along with my toothbrush and toothpaste.



Casa Okinawa Brown Sugar Milk Tea I really like this 3-in-1 milk tea sachet. It tastes just like Taiwanese bubble tea.



Teh Prendjak An Indonesian tea bag which has a very nice aromatic, slightly floral fragrance.

Kapal Api "Kopi O" This is one of my favorite coffees has a traditional taste which reminds me of my childhood *kopi*.

Tissue paper When you carry tissue paper around, it's not for you but for other people. I carry a packet around everywhere. Handkerchiefs are more selfish!



Wet tissue For cleaning wounds, cleaning your hands and doing the No. 2!

LIFESTYLE

Mementos, Memories and Milestones

Looking back on City Harvest Church's 25 years of history with keepsake items dating as far back as 1990.

By YONG YUNG SHIN



Salvation pack from 2001 given to altar call respondents help new believers ground their decision for salvation in the Word, while contact forms allow the church follow up on and integrate them into the family.



CHC's first ever **studio praise and worship album**, *Against All Odds*, recorded in 1994, includes original compositions written by Kong Hee, Sun Ho and Teo Poh Heng (fun fact: Choong Tsih Ming was one of the background vocalists!)



Relationship & Discipleship box, 2012, which includes a 15-year-old letter from Kong Hee to his disciple, Aries Zulkarnian and a more recent letter from the evangelist Billy Graham to Kong, as well as writing material for members to express appreciation for one another.



A **leadership event brochure** from 1994, featuring a younger Phil Pringle and the late Lester Sumrall, who was a disciple of Smith Wigglesworth. Even as a small youth church, CHC had been blessed by the ministry and friendship from powerful men of God.



Prayer card from 1995 helped members put their faith in action by praying the Scriptures, making list of cell group members and friends to pray for. The principles of believing, praying specifically, praying in the Spirit and confession have been and will always be the "secret" to CHC's growth and revival.



Annual **goal-setting cards** encouraged members to write down their dreams and corresponding action plans—"Write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it." (Habakkuk 2:2)



A historical **church progress report** from Dec 1992 announcing the change of name from Ekklesia Ministry, then a youth department under the covering of Bethany Christian Centre, an Assemblies of God church to "City Harvest Church." It was also in this month that Kong and Sun got married.



Water Baptism certificate of longtime member Nicholas Goh, from March 1990. As the only qualified pastor of the young church, Kong conducted all the water baptisms.



Executive Membership card over the years, held by members with leadership positions in the church. The EM signifies a pledge of commitment, responsibility and stewardship toward the house of God.



Weekly service bulletin—some of these were designed by Kong himself, before the staff expanded to include a graphics designer.



A **gold ring** presented to the SOT graduating cohort of 1996—a symbol of covenant to walk in holiness and obedience with God. Each ring is engraved with the student's name on the inside.



Commemorative shirt celebrating CHC's move to its own permanent, 2,300-seater premise at Jurong West on Dec 5, 2001; in the next five years, membership reached 10,000 and then 16,000. Truly, as the slogan on the shirt says, "It Ain't That Far."

2014神学院：来自海外的他们

由城市丰收教会创办的神学院每年吸引不同国家的信徒前来报读，City News采访了来自海外的神学生，分享他们的见证。

张康丽报导



照片:詹前富

(左起) 孙刘伟、简佳娴、赵宁和余礼琴。

今年是神学院欢庆20周年的大日子。由城市丰收教会创办的神学院在过去二十年，用神的话语造就神国度无数卓越的工人。除了本地学生，神学院也栽培了不少外地来的牧者。City News采访了离乡背景来到新加坡的神学生，分享神透过神学院赐给他们的美好祝福！

来自台湾的简佳娴，现年32岁，一点也看不出竟是三个孩子的母亲！“2004年，我参加了康希牧师（城市丰收教会主任牧师）的信心特会，听到神学院的消息，心里很激动，就立刻报名了。但后来因为孩子签证的问题而没能前来。”直到2012年，先生的手术，再一次使他们夫妻俩停下脚步，认真思考信仰的呼召。在先生的支持下，佳娴暂时放下了为人妻人母的责任，来到神学院接受神学的装备。

“以前的我是个个性急躁的领袖，无形中就伤害了其他‘肢体’。但在神学院的这段日子，我学习了忍耐跟谦卑的功课。”问到她最希望带回去的祝福是什么，佳娴说：“想把城市丰收教会那颗不离不弃爱教会的心，带回去给教会的年轻人！”

甜美的26岁上海姑娘余礼琴，从小在牧师家庭长大，但却是信仰里的“以实玛利”，长大后，离开了家乡也离开了信仰，只身在外打拼。直到生命受了亏损后，终于明白神的爱远胜她一切所追求的。重返教会她一听见神学院的消息，便决心参加。

“来到神学院，我明白自己把神摆错了位置，所以容易情感软弱，需要借着悔改再次恢复与神的关系。神学院令我感动的原因之一，就是牧者完全不摆架子的上课态度，和神学生的关系能如此贴近，他们的谦卑和爱心真实恢复了我心中天父的形象。”

同在牧者家庭长大的颜天佑，是个颇具偶像外型的25岁台湾男孩。

“我大概读高中时，就考虑以后要去读神学院了。”可后来天佑却冷淡退后，不知信仰对自己有什么意义。

“真的就是在人已经走不下去的时候，才能看见原来在神凡事都能。”重返信仰的他，服完兵役后，决心来神学院找寻神在他生命中的命定。

“我想要在神学院真实地经历圣灵。真的！只有生命拥有圣灵的同在，才能

真正改变自己、改变别人！”

现年22岁的孙刘伟来自中国。过去不认识神的他，曾是中学的太保，老师校长心中的问题学生。16岁时，刘伟遇见了神，并立志成为传道人。“我很喜欢康牧师的讲道风格，也很被城市丰收教会的赞美敬拜吸引。”来到神学院，最令刘伟感到讶异的是，这么大的教会，却能很有次序的跟着异象运作。领袖团队带着柔和谦卑的心服事，令人感觉他们既是牧者，也是家人。“我看到这里牧者和会友间彼此尊重的关系，是我在往后牧养的一个很好的榜样！”

才刚大学毕业的赵宁，带着满腔热血从中国来到新加坡。“从我大一的时候，就听过神学院的消息以及神学院毕业生说他们怎样经历神。看到大家回来火热为主服侍，心中就很向往。”为了要来神学院，赵宁凭着信心得着了财务上的供应，甚至签证也是在飞机起飞前两天才拿到的！“我在神学院得到很多收获。其中一点是人际关系的医治。因为以前学生时代受过伤，所以渐渐把心给关闭起来了。直到我来到神学院，才再次学习对人敞开。还有就是院长赵仁牧师那句话：‘我们只有一条命，要为主而活。因为人生道路很长。’这些牧者从不停下脚步，知道珍惜每天的时间，全心全人去爱神，活出榜样给人看。我想带回去和年轻人分享的是：充分利用时间，不要浪费生命。就像何玉峰长老说的，年轻的生命是要做什么用的呢？就是要给主用的！”

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