新加坡卫理公会华人年议会 宏茂桥堂



牧者的话



## 一体或无体

黄敬权传道率

在哥林多前书12:12-26中,保罗致信教会勉励基督徒合一。'这不仅反映了教会内的分裂,也强调了合一的重要性。尽管他多次呼吁,教会过去和现在仍面临分裂的问题。保罗在强调合一时似乎带有一种唠叨的意味,他指出世界观、社会、文化或智力的差异会导致教会内产生微妙的排斥;若不注意

这些偏见,我们可能排 斥自己或他人。

以下是三个教会内 常见的言论:

第一,"我老了, 没有用了。"随着社会 老龄化,有些基督徒自 认年老无用;这种心态 忽视了属灵恩赐,使他 们难以视自己为基督身 体的一部分。

第二, "崇拜过于

传统,不适合我。"疫情后,许多外国歌星相继在新加坡演出,尽管票价昂贵,仍吸引大批观众;这种消费主义观念也可能渗入教会,导致对传统崇拜形式的不满。"摇滚式演唱会的崇拜"越来越受欢迎,教会场地和音频/视觉制作复杂化,使崇拜变成一种表演体验,构成了以自我为中心的崇拜文化。

第三, "信息过于简单,不是解经式讲 道或我想要的讲道类型。"虽然这些弟兄姐 妹渴慕更深地了解上帝的话语,但他们可能 忽略了教会里的会众是来自不同的背景,而 解经式讲道要求会众要有一定的圣经基础才能 深入了解证道内容。在《欢迎小孩子来》这本 书中,作者查尔斯·司布真提醒我们:福音是 人人都能明白的真理,而非智者的谜语。

这些想法显示我们容易受到外界影响,忘记被圣灵充满的我们,应该"致力于/委身

于"活出与人亲善和谐的 生命。尽管大家理解教会 群体是多样化的,我们的 文化却使得我们选择逃 避,而不是共同经历一切 苦难。

许多人更愿意将注意 力"移植",集中在符合 自己的世界观、文化、社 会和学术信念的部分,而 不是与在痛苦中的弟兄姐 妹共同生活;这种行为, 不是饮于一位圣灵,而是 从别处"喝/解渴"。若

不意识到这些问题,也不愿在爱中牺牲来寻求 合一,保罗在第25节中所描述的关怀方式将无 法实现,传道者也只能在合一的议题上继续唠 叨。

愿上帝帮助我们不成为一种"无体"的门徒,帮助我们愿意在爱中相互了解,在教会一体中的"彼此",从心合一地饮于一位圣灵。 阿们!

1 我们可以在保罗的书信中看到合一的主题,如《罗马书》、《以 弗所书》、《歌罗西书》和《加拉太书》。



## 上帝的国好像一粒芥菜种

张学敬⋞

耶稣说: "上帝的国好像什么?我拿什么来比较呢? 好像一粒芥菜种,有人拿去种在园子里,长大成树,天上的飞鸟宿在它的枝上。" (路加福音13:18-19)

今年教会在"带一育一"的基础上,制定了"建造年轻化的家园"主题性策略,不只是配合信徒年龄结构老化的情况,更多是实践主耶稣的教导 — 扩展上帝的国。

渐地长大成树。有些信徒的属灵生命成熟了,就像比喻中所说的"*长大成树,天上的飞鸟宿在它的枝上。*"(路加福音13:19)一样,可以成为其他信徒的心灵港湾。

#### 上帝的国

上帝的国可以理解为上帝掌权的地方。*法利赛人问:"上帝的国几时来到?"耶稣回答说:"……上帝的国就在你们心里。*"(路加福音17:20-21)这表示上帝的国就在属上帝子民的心中,在我们的心里。



#### 生命的成长

我们不难发现, 主耶稣所提出的芥菜种比喻, 是关乎生命的议题: 芥菜种能长大成树, 是因为种子里面有生命。比喻说芥菜种的成长过程是明显的, 是可预期的。一粒种子只要种在合宜的环境中, 按时浇水, 你就会看到它发芽, 渐渐长出枝叶, 最后开花结果; 芥菜种长大成树的过程令人兴奋和得着激励。

#### 心灵的港湾

福音就像一小粒芥菜种子播撒在信徒心里,透过培育,其灵命得到成长,像芥菜种一样,渐

#### 芥菜种成长方式

这比喻提醒我们: 芥菜种成长方式是有效的。但是,这方式的重点是要做好栽培,让初信者在信仰上受到保护,不让这些刚长出来的幼芽受损或枯死。此外,信徒本身也需要存谦卑的心接受栽培,使灵命

得着适当的培育,不以肥羊、瘦羊、黑羊或蠢羊的状态自居。肥羊是厌倦了一成不变却是健康牧养方式的信徒;瘦羊是长期缺乏牧养的信徒;黑羊是无比不满的信徒;而蠢羊就是一群缺乏自主性的信徒。

#### 写在最后

教会"家园年轻化"的策略,旨在强化人的内心,使灵命成熟,侍主有力。年轻人的青春不是无限,长者也不是时日无多;不管你是什么年龄,若是心态老化,不好好服侍主,恐怕会如主耶稣所说,都是"无用的什人丢在外面黑暗里,在那里必要哀哭切齿了。"(马太福音25:30)





## 黄昏旋律-歌声背后的故事

陈丽仪✍

我会把黄昏旋律(Sunset Melody)描述为"通过音乐温和地传福音",我认为它是教会的"Pre-ALPHA"阶段(《启发》课程前奏),也是与社区居民联系的桥梁。它分别在今年1月、3月和5月举行。这是一个机会,可以邀请您的非信徒朋友和亲戚来聆听现场音乐和歌曲表演,让他们熟悉我们的教会环境和友好的会友,并借此邀请他们参加7月的《启发》课程。

活动的场地在三楼的Amstutz Hall,这个地方在星期六的晚餐后变身成了一个舒适的音乐咖啡厅。我们的目标:听众是非信徒,让他们与我们一起在舒适放松的环境中度过周末的时光,通过音乐表演向他们传达上帝的爱和恩典。此外,通过这个活动为他们提供一个熟悉和轻松融入教会的机会,为来临7月将开办的《启发》课程铺路。

我曾希望能在教会中分享我所创作的歌曲,然而,由于缺乏机会,这个想法随着时间推移渐渐 淡去。反思这一点,现在我意识到自己以前的想法并不符合上帝的心意,当时所关注的是个人得到 认可。

感谢上帝的恩典和祂的时间,现在,我不断在黄昏旋律分享一些歌曲和个人见证。每次面对听众时, 我都会默默祈祷,祈求上帝使用我作为祂的器皿,谦 卑地传达祂的爱和恩典。

如果你像我一样,渴望分享和服侍,黄昏旋律事工正在积极寻找热衷于外展事工和爱唱歌的弟兄姐妹,加入我们的团队。此外,我们还需要祷告勇士,为参加活动的非信徒朋友代祷,祈求他们的心向基督敞开,并且愿意报名参加7月的《启发》课程。





## 圣周四三音联合圣餐崇拜后记

吴丽真牧师✍

按照教会年历,圣周四是"逾越三日"的 头一天,这一天被称为"濯足日",意思就是 "新的诫命",是基督以言语和象征的行动设立 "爱"这条新诫命的日子。3月28日晚上,三音 的会众一起记念"主耶稣被卖的那一夜"。圣周 四三音联合崇拜随着三音联合诗班献上始礼颂 《十架之主》掀开序幕;联合诗班的组合意义非 凡,三音的弟兄姐妹同声颂扬,同心服侍,促进 我们在基督里的合一。

感恩黄昌荣会督宣讲"上帝的平安之路" (黄敬权传道传译),从以赛亚书59:7-8提到人 类充满歪曲和欺诈的"正义之道",思想我们生 活在布满可怕战争的世界里,许多人都渴望平 安;环视世人试图打造的和平,往往是通过破坏 性的暴力和武力的管道,那不是上帝的平安之 路。黄会督提醒我们第一个濯足日的核心,耶稣 知道上帝的平安之路并且应许我们: "*我留下平* 安给你们,我将我的平安赐给你们。我所赐的,不像世人所赐的,你们心里不要忧愁,也不要胆 怯。"(约翰福音14:27)

在崇拜中,我们回想主耶稣在当年的这一晚设立圣餐,象征救恩的新约,透过祂的死亡和复活而建立,并将这至圣的奥秘赐给我们,成为永生的保证。圣餐也提醒我们饼、杯、死亡之间的连系;主耶稣爱我们到底,心甘情愿为我们走上十字架的道路,成为赎罪祭,籍着主的牺牲除去我们所有的罪债。

崇拜的结束是由教牧在黑暗中撤空圣餐桌和讲台,这"祭坛卸饰礼"象征耶稣被脱去衣服,预备钉十字架;这行动令我们对主耶稣为我们承受的苦难和耻辱有更深刻的体会,并召唤我们籍着祈祷作深入的默想。



## 复活主日 居家探访感言



王阳丞



每年的复活节期,教会都会进行一系列的活动;今年的复活节,教会增加了一项特别的活动"复活节居家探访"。由教牧与执事们组成团队,带上装有复活蛋、十字面包和饼干的小礼包,代表教会去探访生病或不方便出门的会友,与他们一起敬拜,庆祝复活节。

复活节当天下午1点半,<mark>大家在一楼圣殿集合,会</mark> 友领袖善容执事做了重点说明,吴牧师带领大<mark>家一起祷告后,十八个团队就出发了。</mark>

瑞耀、维立和我是一个团队,我们要探访三位会友。我们先去探访一位刚出院的老姐妹。由于这位老姐妹刚出院,我们不方便进屋探访。当我们来到她家门前时,她的女佣满面笑容地接待我们;虽然没见着这位老姐妹,但我想她能感受到教会对她的关爱。

下午4点过后,我们来到仁慈医院探访两位姐妹。一位老姐妹卧病在床,无法起身和发声,听力也不好。当我们把礼包里的《磐石》拿给她看时,她好像明白了我们是代表教会来探望她,她的眼神亮了起来。当我们要离开时,她笑着张开嘴,好像对我们说:"谢谢!"

她还向我们摆摆手。当我们探望另一位姐妹时,她也把《磐石》拿在手里,和我们一起敬拜,一起唱诗歌《歌颂复活主》,听我们读圣经故事时,她一直面带笑容,感慨地说:"感谢主!"

看到两位老姐妹这么喜乐,我深有感触;居家会友非常渴望教会去关心他们,这样的探访非常有意义。在主耶稣复活的日子我们充满了喜乐、信心和盼望。



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#### 比赛的心态

今年4月20日,我怀着激动的心情来到宏茂桥堂,参加教会举办的乒乓友谊赛。看到牧师和弟兄姐妹们聚集在一起,我既高兴又紧张,感受到上帝的爱与喜乐在我们当中。

比赛在牧师的祷告和祝福后开始。比赛时,我认真对待每一个接发球,最终获得男女混双冠军和女单亚军的佳绩。感谢上帝!我非常高兴,觉得年龄不是问题,只要保持良好的心态,存谦卑怜悯的心,敬畏上帝,生活就会充满乐趣和激情,这就是幸福人生!你必将生命的道路指示我,在你面前有满足的喜乐;在你右手中有永远的福乐。(诗篇16:11)

最后,我要感谢负责举办活动的 弟兄姐妹们的辛劳付出!*-汤文碧* 



### 与乒乓机器人比赛

这次教会举办的乒乓与象棋比赛中,我参加了乒乓赛,有一个与机器人对打的特别项目,别开生面。机器人不停地向你发球,每次成功打回对方桌面便获得一分,挑战时间为两分钟,以得分最高决定胜负。比赛难度在于球速、旋转、力量、方向和频率的变化。我先挑战了中级,获胜后晋级高级,有幸获得第二名。

回顾比赛, 我觉得整体气氛相当不错, 特别是:

- 1. 委员会互相配合,无论在赛程、场地、后勤和时间上都掌握得很好。
- 2. 赛制和项目编排合理,适度配合教会环境,尤其是加入机器人项目,大大提高了弟兄姐妹的参与热情。
- 3. 赛事完美结束,突显出弟兄姐妹在交流意识上的进步,大家彼此相爱,场景非常美好,是上帝所喜悦的。**看哪,弟兄** 和睦同居,是何等地善,何等地

*美*! (诗篇133:1) - **张学敬** 



#### 美好的时光

疫情后,教会再次举办乒乓与象棋友谊赛,弟兄姐妹在基督的爱里合一、团结,大家都经历了美好的时光。

我参加了与机器人对打的乒乓赛,我觉得非常有趣。在比赛中,大家为了挑战自我而努力、欢笑、比拼,其乐融融。我还结识了新朋友,大家互相鼓励、谦让,充满喜乐,这正是教会举办活动要达到的目的。

这次的活动适合各年龄层的 弟兄姐妹参与,彼此团契,有吃 有玩;希望弟兄姐妹彼此分享与 珍惜主爱。*所以,你们该彼此劝 慰,互相建立,正如你们素常所* 行的。(帖撒罗尼迦前书5:11) - 陈丽娜





#### "棋"开得胜

感谢赞美主,冠病疫情趋缓了,棋王大赛 又回来了!感谢主赐给 筹委们智慧和能力,在 他们精心地策划和安排

病赛给在排

下,成功举办了2024年乒乓与象棋比赛。

本届棋王大赛采用淘汰制,共有十六人报名参加,刚好组成八队。

比赛当天上午9点,吴牧师在爱加倍大厅为本届乒乓与象棋比赛做开幕祷告。参赛者用过早餐后,就来到交谊厅展开棋盘上的激战。赛场一片寂静,可以想象在每个棋手的脑海中和棋盘上的交战不亚于乒乓赛场的激烈。很高兴又遇到久违的老棋手,也看到了许多新的面孔,这是可喜的。老将们棋艺精湛,小将们也是初生牛犊,交战异常激烈。比赛之余,棋手们在切磋棋艺后也交流思想,赛场是即激烈又其乐融融。

半决赛在下午1点结束,选手们去爱加倍大厅享用了丰盛的午餐后,又回到交谊厅进行冠军争夺战。接近下午两点,冠军终于出炉了,我有幸获得了冠军。

乒乓与象棋比赛的颁奖礼在爱加倍大厅举行, 本届乒乓与象棋比赛在吴牧师做结束祷告后圆满结 束,感谢赞美主!-*郑春清* 









## 感恩有祢

外展与关怀事工在2020年构思举办一个为 社区服务的活动,但由于新冠疫情,计划无法 进行。

2023年初,我们尝试邀请卫生科学局 (HSA)与我们共同举办捐血活动,但因各种 因素最终无法合作。然而,我们继续努力,经 过多次协调和洽谈,卫生科学局终于同意在 2024年与教会一同举办捐血活动。外展事工团 队兴奋不已,希望透过这次活动能吸引居民来 到教会,从而将神的爱和福音带给他们。

2023年12月,执事会批准了我们提交的社区日计划书。今年1月份,我们组建了社区日筹备委员会。除了捐血活动,我们还邀请了综合护理机构(AIC)为乐龄长者进行功能筛查,并与乐龄事工合作举办健康讲座。我们很荣幸邀请到国大医院的高级顾问梁绍雄医生担任讲员。当天我们还安排了美食摊位、儿童手工活动,也为青少年和乐龄长者安排了精彩的游戏节目,成为名副其实的"祝福宏茂桥的社区日"。

我们为这次活动做了大量的宣传并积极推 广。我们创建了独特的图形和一个用于注册和 获取活动信息的Linktree网页链接。我们通过各 种渠道推广活动,包括哥本峇鲁居民网络,卫











## 社区日

张伟卓≤

理公会宏茂桥堂的英文堂和印度音,以及教会的带一育一计划等。尽管我们倾尽所有的努力,但截至4月份的注册率居然达不到最低要求的10%。筹备委员会感到疲惫,对是否能达到卫生科学局和综合护理机构所设定的目标也心存怀疑。感谢主,祂安排了小天使,提醒我不要倚靠自己的聪明,要定睛仰望耶稣,并要信靠祂,祂必指引我的路。专心仰赖耶和华,不可倚靠自己的聪明,在你一切所行的路上都要认定祂,祂必使你的道路平直。(箴言3:5-6)

随着活动的临近,有更多弟兄姐妹愿意站 出来服侍,也有许多弟兄姐妹为这次活动献上 祷告,我深深感受到上帝的恩典和祝福。在6月 1日活动当天,尽管下着小雨,但弟兄姐妹和志 愿者一早就来到教会为服侍社区作准备。当天 出现了感人的一幕:弟兄姐妹们用雨伞护送参 与者。参加的人数也超出预期,有107人注册捐 血并收集了79包血液,远远超出了我最初30包 的预期,这见证了上帝的恩典。主啊!感恩有 祢,社区日才能圆满落幕。愿将一切的荣耀、 赞美归于天父!









## 充满爱的儿童营

杨思胜⋞

一年一度的儿童营,不仅是孩子们假期中的一大亮点,更是他们成长道路上的重要里程碑。通过丰富多彩的活动和寓教于乐的方式,营会致力于培养孩子们的品格、社交能力和文化素养。今年的趣味学习假日营再次给我们带来了深刻的感悟和反思。

在这个充满爱的营会中, "爱心"主题贯穿始终。 孩子们不仅在课堂上学习什么是爱, 更在生活中践行爱心。通过"爱心棒棒卡"活动,孩子们相互表达关爱, 体会到付出和接纳的喜悦。这种体验远比单纯的说教更为深刻和持久。

营会设计了许多互动环节,如欢迎游戏和破冰游戏,帮助孩子们迅速建立友谊,增强团队合作精神。看着孩子们在游戏中开心地笑闹,我们感受到他们在轻松愉快的氛围中学会了沟通和合作的重要性。

营会也安排了各类文化工作坊,如布偶制作、陶土花盆、律动的文字和香包制作。这些工作坊不仅培养了孩子们的创造力,也让孩子们在劳作中体验和学习不同文化,丰富了他们的知识面,激发了他们对世界的好奇心和探索欲。

在此,我们要特别感谢所有为营会辛勤付出的老师、助教和同工们,感谢他们无私地奉献和精心设计的活动,为孩子们创造了如此难忘的营会体验,让他们在这里学会了爱与分享,收获了友谊和成长!

我们更要感谢<mark>上帝,</mark>是<mark>祂的保</mark>守和供应让儿童营能顺利完成。愿每一个孩子在这里都找到属于自己的快乐和成长,也愿上帝的爱永远与他们同在。







## 参加逾越节筵席的感想

我为着能够参加今年3月17日的逾越节筵席感到非常荣幸和兴奋。这次的聚餐让我更加了解逾越节的意义,并给了我一次模仿以色列人过逾越节的机会。平时,我只能从圣经中学习关于逾越节的知识,但是通过李长老生动有趣的分享,我更深入地体会到以色列人当初从埃及被拯救出来时的释然和欢喜。

当天餐桌上摆了犹太人逾越节的食物,包括干果、坚果、生菜、芹菜、烤羊肉(也备有烤鸡肉给不吃羊肉的弟兄姐妹享用)、饼皮(代表无酵饼)和葡萄汁等;大家都吃得津津有味。在聚餐的时候大家有说有笑,让我感受到在主里团契的甜蜜。

我感恩上帝在我的生命中作救赎的工作,我虽然不配,但主十字架上的救赎恩典使我能成为上帝的儿女,享受祂永远与我同在和赐给我的福气。-**陈震翰** 





我很感恩与主内的弟兄姐妹在3月17日参加逾越节筵席,透过李一静长老的讲解,我对 这个以色列人的节期有更深入的了解。

逾越节筵席是一个生命的筵席,是上帝拯救以色列人的象征。以色列人每一年都要吃 逾越节餐,全家团圆,一起感恩,记念上帝大能的拯救,赐给他们新生命。

逾越节晚餐的仪式是围绕着4个杯的葡萄汁进行的,每一个杯都有一个称呼,取自出埃及记6:6-7。

- 1. 成圣之杯:上帝拣选以色列,将他们分别为圣;上帝也拣选我们,将我们分别为圣;
- 2. **释放之杯**:上帝以大能将以色列人从埃及的捆绑中释放出来;上帝也以大能将我们从罪的捆绑中释放出来;
- 3. **救赎之杯**:上帝以羔羊的血将以色列从埃及为奴之家救赎出来;上帝也以基督的血将我们从罪的奴隶中救赎出来;
- 4. 赞美之杯:上帝接纳以色列做祂的百姓;上帝也接纳我们做祂的子民。



以色列人认真看重他们的信仰,并世世代代传承下去;身为基督徒的我们,是否也是这样?我们是否常常与家人一起数算上帝的恩典?我们有记念上帝成就在我们身上的美事并与人分享吗?盼望逾越节的筵席成为我们的提醒,让我们成为美好的见证,荣耀主名!一胡英宝

姚神忠✍

## 多家庭时光

今年年会把4月28日设定为"爱家主日",目的是为了要加强教会与家庭的联系。年会家庭事工部特地为这主日主办了《家有礼拜,屋有顶盖》线上讲座会,邀请了新加坡D6主席谢宪安医生来主讲,主要内容是家庭时光,也就是我们教会推动多年的家庭祭坛。

传统上,家庭祭坛是严肃的聚会,有一定的仪式,但不失为家庭的重要时刻,也是上帝赐福的美好时光。以色列民透过筑坛来敬拜上帝,成为一家人信仰与生活的灵命基地。

年轻家长开始家庭祭坛,会感到一些压力;所以家庭事工就把家庭祭坛改成家庭时光,主要是鼓励年轻父母为孩子祷告,分享生活与传承信仰。家庭时光是一家人生活的中心,就是邀请耶稣进入家中,让耶稣为家带来改变和祝福。

"我今日所吩咐你的话都要记在 心上,也要殷勤教训你的儿女,无论你坐在 家里,行在路上,躺下,起来,都要谈 论。"(申命记6:6-7)上帝要百姓无论在 何处都要实行教导、谈论和遵守祂的话,且 教导儿女一生不偏离上帝。亚伯拉罕立下榜 样,无论搬到何地,他都筑坛亲近上帝。他 的儿子以撒和孙子雅各三代也被影响,他们 学习筑坛,蒙上帝祝福。

敬拜上帝始于个人的祭坛及家庭的祭坛。父母须内心相信家庭时光所带来的功效,才能同心协力建立;教会须成为家庭时光最好的同工,透过推动、教导和彼此扶持,帮助会友认识家庭时光的重要性。教会可提供必要的资源,成为父母的后盾。当父母主动承担更多属灵教育的责任,家庭的凝聚力就会加强,家庭问题也会随之减少,教会也会逐渐成长。







### 妇女会半日游一

## 参观土生华人博物馆

今年4月14日下午,妇女会的四十四位姐妹和一位弟兄在教会享用娘惹午餐;经黄幼莲牧师在巴士上祝福祷告后,大家兴致勃勃地前往土生华人博物馆。这座建于1912年的建筑,原是道南小学旧校舍,现为国家古迹,馆内珍藏八百件文物。

到达博物馆后,我们拍了全体照,并分成三组参观。导游详细介绍了馆内色彩缤纷的瓷器、精致的花梨木家具、亮丽的地毯以及娘惹和峇峇服装等展品,这些展品展示了土生华人独特的文化和手工艺。

导游还讲解了土生华人的结婚礼节、珠宝服饰和娘惹美食的烹饪方法,并介绍了早期南来新加坡的先辈们,包括林文庆 先生在医学、教育和社会上的贡献。

土生华人是早期中国移民与当地土著通婚的后裔,男子称为峇峇(baba),女子称为娘惹(nonya),他们留下了独特的文化习俗和精致的手工艺品,值得传承。

这次游览让姐妹们增长了见识,彼此交流,更加深入地了解和赞赏了土生华人文化及其先辈们对社会的贡献。-*柯碧琴* 







## 欢庆母亲节

妇女服务会在5月12日欢庆母亲节,感恩母亲的辛劳付出。 上帝教导我们要孝敬父母,使我们在耶和华我们的上帝赐给我们 的地上得享长寿。

当天,华人年议会吴乃力会长为我们作开始祷告,会长夫人 作结束祷告,使我们充满天父的恩典和祝福。

欢庆母亲节的节目丰富多彩,彰显上帝赐予姐妹们的恩赐; 有姐妹担任主席,带领唱诗赞美神,教导背诵经文,还有"猜圣 经人物"抢答游戏。庆祝会上大家笑声不断,喜乐无比。

姐妹们创意满满,有姐妹教导制作塑胶花;有爱心的姐妹制作糖果花送给每位姐妹,妇女会也送上袜子作为母亲节礼物。姐妹们分工合作,有人烹煮美食,有人出钱出力,大家都得饱足。

结束时,妇女会会长报告了教会事项,并呼吁姐妹们积极参与妇女会的活动,彼此扶持、互相关怀、荣耀主名。妇女会每月第二主日举办常月会,节目精彩丰富,欢迎姐妹们一同参与,发挥同心合一的精神。-**王淑慧** 

## 2024洗礼入会坚信礼







### 坚信礼

















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我来教会参加崇拜已经有六年了,开始时我就像是个"透明人",来也匆匆去也匆匆;没有人认识我,我也不与人交谈,更不相信耶稣是救主。我先生自小信主受洗,几年前我的两个孩子也在教会接受了幼洗。疫情前,我只是偶尔陪我先生来参加主日崇拜;疫情后,孩子们开始上主日学,我才在每个主日陪他们来教会。

2022年11月,我的家婆安息主怀;追思礼拜在她的家乡柔佛的拉美士小镇举行。当晚许巽然牧师的"突然出现"让我感到非常惊喜与感动(他骑了一百多公里的电单车亲自来慰问我们);我开始体会了上帝要透过人对我表达祂的爱。

去年我在教会生活营里认识了一些弟兄姐妹,特别是加才玲玲夫妇和传义淑莹夫妇,他们对我非常关心,让我感受到家人般的温暖。在玲玲姐的鼓励和带领下,我参加了《启发》课程。启发课程让我重新思考人生的问题,也更认识主耶稣的救恩。在《启发》课程里,我接受了耶稣为我个人的救主。

自从决志信主后,我的生活方式改变了,我几乎每天都会安排时间读经祷告和阅读属灵书籍,心里渴慕更多认识我所相信的上帝。圣灵也透过经文让我看到自己的罪和上帝无条件的爱。在教会这个属灵大家庭里,我感受到了爱与关怀。我参加小组,也学习以上帝的爱和弟兄姐妹彼此扶持、彼此激励;我不再是"透明人"了,我是上帝的儿女,是上帝家里的成员了。

在今年的圣灵降临节主日,我终于接受洗礼,在会众面前宣告主耶稣是我个人的救主。感谢主的引导

和眷顾,也感谢每一位在 我生命中出现并帮助过我 的弟兄姐妹。我目前继续 在红本《门徒》课程里继 备自己,深信圣灵必生继 带领我,越来越明白也能够 带奇妙救恩,同时也能够 结出圣灵的果子来见证和 荣耀那爱我的阿爸天父。





## SERVING GOD IN C.R.O.W.N

Tan Zhen Han €







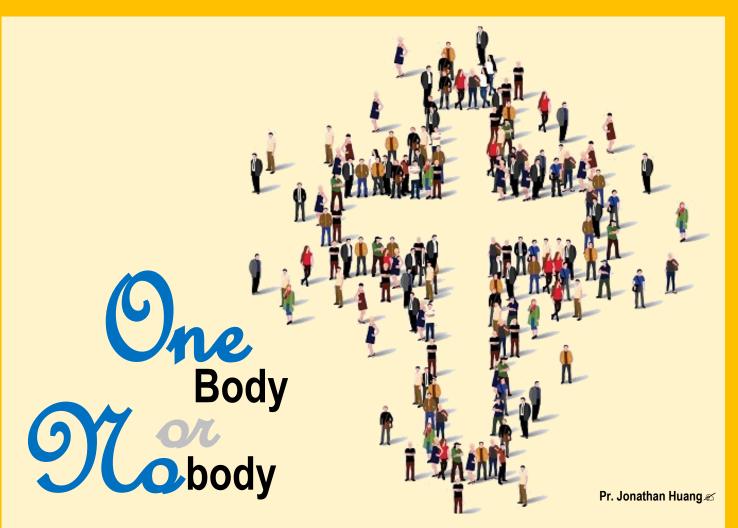
My name is Zhen Han and I'm one of the young adults that served as a vocalist in C.R.O.W.N (one body). Coming into this, I was delighted to serve again with my fellow Young Adults as I had an amazing experience worshipping God in the C.R.O.W.N before this.

Personally, I am a new believer in Christ, as I have just entered AMKCMC just a little short of 2 years ago. Since entering church, I have always thought of how I could serve God more, and decided to serve in C.R.O.W.N to see if this was my calling as I always had a passion for singing. My favourite part of church service has always been worship, praising God through worship songs, and I was finally able to worship God as part of a worship team, which I am thankful for.

I thoroughly enjoyed the C.R.O.W.N practices that we had together as a team as swell, as everyone serving was always friendly and helpful. We meshed well together with a common purpose: worshipping God wholeheartedly, regardless of whether it was practice or the actual day of worship.

On the actual day of C.R.O.W.N, I felt that the biggest takeaway for me was being part of a worshipping body, worship team and C.R.O.W.N participants alike that sang praises to the Lord as one voice: vocalists, instrumentalists and members of the congregation. It was truly a sight to behold as I could see the congregation surrender themselves to God and focus solely on the worship with no distractions. It made me realise how precious this time was for me and others as well, that we devoted so much time into practice to serve as the vessels that brought God and the congregation together.





In 1 Corinthians 12:12-26, Paul was writing to all Christians about unity. Alongside Paul's letter to the Corinthians, many of his letters touched on unity<sup>1</sup>. His letters clearly show that disunity existed in the church in his time, and he took it seriously by writing about it. There was almost a sense of "lor-sorness"<sup>2</sup> in his emphasis on unity. However, despite the repeated calls for churches to unite, it remains a challenge. It is the purpose of this short piece to discuss some of the challenges faced by the church that could result in disunity among its members and to rally them to live in unity and drink from one Spirit.

One observation in the church is that subgroups and ministries tend to form cliques rather than a community out of diversity, thus isolating themselves from other natural groups. It is a deviation from Scripture that the Spirit-led community is committed to reconciling all men to one another and to God, by uniting all races, intellectuals and actions-oriented people, new believers and mature disciples, Jews and Gentiles, old and young, men and women<sup>3</sup>.

A major point Prior makes from 1 Corinthians 12:12-26 is there are many subtle distinctive traits

which we can easily and unconsciously stifle by our worldviews, leading to social, cultural, or intellectual amputation<sup>4</sup>. If we don't pay attention to our biases, culture, and academic influences, we may cut ourselves or others out of the body.

Here are three common statements concerning the topics above – societies, cultures, and academics.

First, "I am old, I cannot perform physically as I did before, I am useless."

Second, "The worship service is too traditional. It is not suitable for me."

Third, "The message is not *cheem*<sup>5</sup> enough, it is not the type of preaching I want."

It is becoming more common for some Christians to believe in the first statement as our society ages. This group may unconsciously elevate the body and perceive that everyone must be physically strong to perform certain tasks or exercise their giftings. They forget that spiritual giftings are not just about physicality. Consequently, this mentality cuts off this group from the larger call to see themselves as part of the body.

Next, "The worship service is too traditional". This quip usually comes from culturally influenced individuals. Just this year, pop stars like Coldplay, Taylor Swift, and Bruno Mars performed in Singapore. Despite the high prices of the tickets, many shows sold out quickly. This points towards the presence of a consumeristic worldview that may not be apparent to us, where one pays for the experiences to make one feel good. Such a view can also seep into the church.

Additionally, "Arena rock worship" is becoming increasingly popular as churches take advantage of both the scale of their sanctuaries and the sophistication of their audio/visual production<sup>6</sup>. As a result, worship becomes a rock liturgy, an orchestrated experience involving timing, technicalities, solos and riffs, lighting, volume, and performance<sup>7</sup>.

Since concerts are continuously marketed, hyped, and experienced in our culture, church services that involve music and the arts are inevitably compared to these experiences, and may begin to emulate them. A risk associated with this approach is the building of a body that's self-serving and centred, focused on the hype instead of God.

Addressing the third statement, there is no doubt that the Word of God has transforming power and preaching that focuses on the Word can benefit the congregation. However, congregational dynamics need to be considered. Many preachers, such as expository preachers, delve deeply into a particular passage or topic. This requires sustained concentration and attention from the congregation, which can be difficult. The congregation may require additional education and training to understand biblical interpretation, historical context, and theological themes. The reality is that not all congregation members possess a solid biblical foundation or literacy, and these congregants should not be penalised. In his book *Come Ye Children*, Spurgeon emphasised that the gospel is not

beyond the understanding of children.

"Although the Scriptures contain great mysteries, knowledge of them isn't necessary for salvation; otherwise, few of us would be saved... Christ crucified is not a riddle for sages, but a plain truth for all. True, it is meat for men. but it is also milk for babes."

These three common thoughts illustrate how easily we forget that the community that is alive to the Spirit is committed to living out the reconciliation of all men in a costly way. While it is important to remember that the body of Christ is diverse, with people from all backgrounds, our cultures have taught us to escape pain of all kinds and not to struggle together.

Instead of engaging with brothers and sisters who suffer as an inevitable part of life and living as one in the body God created for him, one may rather conduct a transplant to focus on a part of the body that suits one's worldview, cultural, societal and intellectual beliefs. This constitutes a direct act not of drinking from the Spirit (v13), but from somewhere else.

Therefore, unless one drinks directly from the Spirit and cares to enter into other members' joys and sorrows, one remains a nobody. Consequently, Paul's care described in verse 25 will never be achieved and the preachers will continue to be *lorsor* on the theme of unity. May God help us to be in One Body, and never avoid the blessing of drinking from the One Spirit. Amen.



<sup>1</sup> One could observe the theme of unity in Paul's letters such as, Romans, Ephesians, Colossians and Galatians.

<sup>2</sup> A Singlish word that describes a person who constantly repeats him/herself, usually referring to nagging.

<sup>3</sup> David Prior, *The Message of 1 Corinthians: Life in the Local Church*, The Bible Speaks Today (Leicester, England; Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1985), 215-216. Essentially, any and all peoples.

<sup>4</sup> Ibid.

<sup>5</sup> A Singlish word that describes deep, profound and complex.

<sup>6</sup> Kate Bowler and Wen Reagan, 'Bigger, Better, Louder: The Prosperity Gospel's Impact on Contemporary Christian Worship.', *Religion and American Culture: A Journal of Interpretation* 24, no. 2 (2014): 186–230.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid, Italics mine.

<sup>8</sup> Spurgeon, C.H., Come Ye Children Practical Help Telling People About Jesus (Christian Focus, 2009), 50.





# SUNSET MELODY - A STORY BEHIND EVERY SONG

Elizabeth Tan &

I would describe it as a "gentle evangelistic approach" through music.

Sunset Melody underwent three pilot runs, which we considered as the 'Pre-ALPHA' phase for our church. These events took place in January, March, and May this year. They provided an opportunity for inviting non-believer friends and relatives to listen to live music and song presentations, allowing them to familiarise themselves with our church environment and friendly members before inviting them to our ALPHA program in July.

Our venue, Amstutz Hall at Level 3 of Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church, transformed into a cozy "music cafe" that Saturday evening after dinner. Our target audience was non-believers, and our aim was to convey God's love and grace to them through musical presentations in a warm and inviting setting. Furthermore, we envisioned that the Sunset Melody event would provide an opportunity for them to become acquainted and comfortable with our community, paving the way for invitations to our ALPHA course in July.

I initially hoped to share some songs I have written in church and had discussed similar concepts with some people. However, due to a lack of opportunity, this idea gradually faded over time. Reflecting on this, I realised that my previous thoughts did not align with God's intentions. At that time, I was more concerned about personal recognition.

Thanks to God's grace and the support of Bing Liang, Amos, Joseph, and Pastors, along with many brothers and

sisters in the church, I now have the privilege to share my songs and personal testimony during Sunset Melody. Each time I face the audience, I offer a silent prayer, asking God to use me as His instrument to humbly convey His love and grace.

If you're like me and have the desire to step forward to contribute through sharing and serving, then what's holding you back? We're actively seeking individuals, passionate about outreach to join our team. Additionally, we need prayer warriors to pray for our non-believing friends to be open to Christ and to enrol in our ALPHA program.





## [Maundy Thursday Combined service] Afterword

Rev Tack Ng &

[Maundy Thursday Combined service] is one of our traditions at Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church. It is also a wonderful expression of unity in Christ as a Methodist family. According to the Church Calendar, Holy Thursday is the first of the three days of Passover, this day is named the washing of the feet (Maundy) meaning "New Commandment", and is the day when Christ, by word and symbolic action, establishes the new commandment of "Love".

On the evening of March 28, brothers and sisters from the three congregations, namely the Tamil, English, and Chinese congregations, gathered together to remember "The Night Jesus Was Sold". The evening service started with the choir Introit, "Cross of Jesus, Cross of Sorrow", by the combined choir of the three Conferences. Having the three Conferences sing and serve together with one heart to promote our unity in Christ was extremely meaningful.

That evening, Bishop Wong's sermon, "God's Way of Peace" (translated by Pr. Jonathan Huang), was taken from Isaiah 59:7-8. From his sermon, we learnt that humanity is full of crooked and fraudulent ways of doing justice, and we live in a world filled with horrific wars. Many people long for peace, but the peace that the world tries to build is often through destructive violence and

force, not God's way of peace. Bishop Wong reminded us that at the heart of the first Maundy Thursday is where true peace is found. Jesus knows the way of God's peace and promises us: "I [Jesus] leave you my peace, I give you my peace. I have not given you as the world has given you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." (John 14:27)

At the Maundy Thursday service, we remember that Jesus instituted the Holy Communion on this night of that fateful year to symbolise the new covenant of salvation, established through His death and resurrection, and to give us this holy mystery as a guarantee of eternal life. As we receive Holy Communion, we remember our Lord Jesus Christ with thanksgiving as we partake of His body and blood. Holy Communion also reminds us of the connection between the bread and cup and the death of our Lord; that Jesus loved us to the end, and willingly took the way of the cross for us, to become an atoning sacrifice for our sins, and to remove all our sinful debts through the Lord's sacrifice.

At the end of the service, the pastors emptied the Holy Communion table and the pulpit in darkness. This "Stripping of the Altar " symbolises the undressing of Jesus leading to the crucifixion, an action that calls us to deeper appreciation and meditation through prayer on the suffering and shame that Jesus endured on our behalf.



### 见证

### 恩典之路

感谢爱我的天父上帝,因祂有数不尽的 恩典。

随着岁月增长,我的体力衰退,最近我也因着骨骼酸痛屡次就医。看过骨科、照X光、做MRI、验血和物理治疗……医生最后的诊断是"一切正常"!感谢上帝祂看顾及保守我平安。因主对我说:"我的恩典够你用的,因为我的能力是在人的软弱上显得完全。"(哥林多后书12:9)上了年纪,许多疾病接踵而来,心里难免会担忧。每当看到卧病在床行动不便、肢体瘫痪的病人,我便痛心疾首,寝食难安。我心里默默向上帝呼求:上帝啊!求祢救我脱离一切苦难;因祢是我的力量,是我的盾牌,我心里依靠祢就得帮助。

上帝未曾应许生活会一帆风顺,但祂应许在艰难时,祂会用大能的膀臂托住及支持你,即使在试炼的沙漠中,上帝已预备安慰的绿洲。上帝应许说: "我总不撇下你,也必不丢弃你。" (希伯来书13:5)上帝在我身上施的恩典多到无法细数;我要感恩再感恩,因上帝能化困境为祝福,靠主恩典能在艰难时活出美好的见证。-黄桂芬

### 毕业感言

在神学院三年的学习旅程,充满着上帝的恩典和带领;还有教会弟兄姐妹的扶持和帮助;老师的教导和陪伴。



恭贺叶瑶力传道荣获 道学硕士学位Master of Divinity(三一神 学院2024)

反思过去三年的学习,除了知识上的得着,最重要的是明白了上帝要的从来都不是完美的牧者,而是一个愿意继续受教和跟随祂的仆人;这是继续下个旅程的基础。

毕业不代表学习旅程结束了,而是下一个阶段学习旅程的开始;毕业证书告诉我需要继续受教、学习和跟随基督。现在,新阶段的学习旅程要启航了,我既期待又忐忑;恳求上帝帮助我继续追求和进取,成为祂合用的器皿,不负所托。- **叶瑶力传道** 



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