

# The Epistles

Issue 12 - May 2014



## A Great Hope

By Senior Pastor Yat Wan Eu

**L**osing a loved one is a shocking experience.

Many of us are acquainted with it. The distress and the emptiness that follow are quite unimaginable. Some people in grief consider this to be the end of the world for themselves. Some contemplate suicide and have to be restrained.

The dust should settle, eventually. Thoughts slowly begin to come together. One should evaluate the incident from a sober standpoint, and this is where one's worldview and beliefs surface.



When I lost my own infant son many years ago, I experienced all the above. We know that people die, but even so, each time death occurs within the family it comes as something unexpected. When the dust settled, I confronted myself with the pertinent question, "What do I believe in relation to this incident?"

I shall share with you the lessons from God's Word that emboldened me; Scripture that could embolden you today if you are in a similar situation. However, these words are for the saved. That's why it's important to lead our loved ones to Christ as a matter of urgency; you never know when the last goodbye will be.

Listen to this: "Just as people are destined to die once, and after that face judgment..." – *Hebrews 9:27 (NIV)*. It's like that. You are destined to die. I am destined to die. Your loved ones are destined to die. They will not live on earth forever; it was never meant to be. We are on a journey; how we walk as we journey is of critical importance. Our lives should always exhibit this consciousness.

Consider this: "If we live, we live for the Lord; and if we die, we die for the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord." – *Romans 14:8 (NIV)*. We should live to the Lord; we should die to the Lord. We should

belong to the Lord. This is what will give us hope in the end.

If we live to the Lord, we will be able to speak like Paul. He said, "For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain." – *Philippians 1:21 (NIV)*. What an elevated revelation! To die is gain. Indeed, for the saved that's what it is. So if your loved one belonged to the Lord, these words will surely comfort you, just as they consoled me.

In many places in the Bible, death is referred to as 'sleep'. So those who died in Christ are 'asleep in Christ'. The word 'sleep' gives us the Lord's perception of death, a perception that we need to adopt. Consider the following verses:

"He went in and said to them, 'Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.'" – *Mark 5:39 (NIV)*.

"For when David had served God's purpose in his own generation, he fell asleep; he was buried with his ancestors and his body decayed." – *Acts 13:36 (NIV)*. Notice, David did not decay; his body did.

"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him." – *1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV)*.

Now listen to this:

"Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord." – *2 Corinthians 5:6 (NIV)*.

"Then I heard a voice from heaven say, 'Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'they will rest from their labour, for their deeds will follow them.'" – *Revelation 14:13 (NIV)*.

These words comforted me; nothing can move me anymore. This is what I have believed all my life – this great **HOPE**. ■

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**The Editors:** Stephanie Ou-Young  
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# NLCC's Newest Elders

**A**t NLCC's 2012/2013 Annual General Meeting on Sunday, 27 October 2013, Elder Alan Ong stepped down after faithfully serving the church in that role for three years. Seng Kian Gan and Tong Seng Tang were unanimously affirmed as elders, joining the existing Board of Elders. Visit [nlcc.org.au/#/publications](http://nlcc.org.au/#/publications) and download Issue 11 of *The Epistles* to learn more about the existing Board of Elders.



Elder SK Gan and family

## Elder Seng Kian Gan – Vice Chairman

*Elder "SK" Gan returns to the Board of Elders after a well-deserved one-year sabbatical. He was previously an Elder from November 2006 to November 2012 and served as Church Treasurer. He is well-known to most members of NLCC as a hardworking dentist, loving husband to his beautiful wife Fionna, and caring father of three to Mariah, Joshua and Joseph.*

*SK and his family share a passion for missions and they have led NLCC Missions Impact teams to Cambodia on four occasions – the most recent being in 2013.*

*Here, he shares a few thoughts with us about what led their family to NLCC, where he sees NLCC going in the future and some details about his favourite things in life.*

I would like to say that I was led to join NLCC on the golf course because the first time I met Pastor Yat Wan Eu was at Joondalup Golf Resort. But seriously, my family was in transition, looking for a church to call home. So we visited NLCC in 2004, and found a place to share life with others. Divine golf appointment as it may be, we have stayed and still continue to worship and serve at NLCC till this day.

When we joined, NLCC was worshipping at the Social Sciences Lecture Theatre at The University of Western Australia and I thought we were mainly ministering to university students. With God leading us to the City of Belmont and a building of our own in February 2010, I now see NLCC reaching to the needy in our community and being the 'lighthouse' in this area. For me, church is a place where healing, teaching/learning and sending out takes place! It's not about just receiving but also about giving.

My favourite food is anything pasta and my favourite book of the Bible is Genesis (where it all began). I have too many favourite verses to share but one of them is Galatians 2:20 (NIV) – *"I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me."* This verse reminds me who I 'was' before, who I 'am' now and what a loving God we have! As for my favourite Christian song, it's Don Moen's "You Are My Hiding Place". (I'm showing my age here!)

If I could describe Fionna in only one word, it would be "sacrificial".

*When Fionna was asked for SK's three best characteristics, her response was: "His integrity, generosity and kindness." ■*

## Elder Tong Seng Tang – Secretary

### "It Takes Two to Tang-o"

We are the Tang family, comprising Tong Seng, Soo Kum, Grace and Matthew, and our tango partner is none other than our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. As our family loves to sing and play musical instruments, let me share our story with you using the titles of praise and worship songs.

### Salvation Belongs To Our God

We each accepted Jesus as Lord and Saviour in 1977, 1980, 1998 and 2000 respectively and were individually water baptised and filled with the Holy Ghost not long thereafter.

We've since been serving the Lord in various capacities both in Singapore and in Australia as the Lord bestows His spiritual gifts and talents on all of us.

### I Will Serve Thee Because I Love Thee

Soo Kum is gifted in teaching, intercessory prayer and in accounting/finance matters. She is currently serving as the NLCC Prayer and Intercession Co-ordinator and Assistant Treasurer.

Grace and Matthew are gifted in music and both have served in the worship ministry, always striving to give of their best to the Lord. Matthew is currently in Singapore on National Service.

I first began serving in the logistics team in church because I wanted to learn humility. As more spiritual gifts were bestowed on me, I started to shun the limelight as I was afraid of being arrogant. Then one day the Parable of the Talents spoke to me very directly. Even now, I always ask God to hide me behind the cross whenever I am on stage speaking about Him.

I have served in many ministries and at NLCC, I presently serve as an elder, videographer and handyman.

### On Eagle's Wings

When the opportunity to become an air force pilot was presented before me in 1982, I sought the Lord earnestly and He made clear His plan to me – be a witness for Him in the Republic of Singapore Air Force. I have done this in my 25-year military career and I am always thankful to God for choosing me as a vessel of honour.

In my 31 years of aviation experience, I've found



Elder Tong Seng Tang and family

many parallels between flying and the Christian walk, such as:

We are eagles, majestic creatures which soar high in the sky, looking out with remarkably sharp focus.

*Attitude determines altitude.* When we pitch up, we climb. Conversely, when we pitch down, we dive and crash. Look up always to the Lord in all that we do and we will rise above on eagle's wings.

When disoriented in clouds or fog, always trust your flight instruments. The same is true in life: trust the Word of God revealed by the Holy Spirit to lead you into the light.

**CORRIGENDUM**

On page 2 of Issue 11 of *The Epistles*, the article on Will Stewart stated that he had been "hooked on drugs". This phrase is to be replaced with "A drug user". We offer our sincere apologies to Will.

- The Editors

**→ From Page 2**

In any dogfight, always stick with your wingman. In real life, God promises to be there with us. Stick close to Him always; He will never fail you.

**Here I Am, Send Me To The Nations**

My family and I firmly believe in the Great Commission. We have joined mission teams to Thailand, Cambodia and Sabah.

My heart is passionate towards the Thai people because I speak their language and have been there often while in the Air Force. This passion was validated when I was asked to speak with Khmer refugees living along the Thai-Cambodia border during a Cambodian mission trip, when God directed me to speak with a Thai chef working in a French restaurant, and when I helped my team sing Khmer songs of praise because the two languages were similar.

**I'm Forever Grateful To You**

My family and I are always grateful and thankful to God. He is and will always be our Tango Partner. Without Him, we would never have been able to accomplish what we have today. He always leads and gracefully guides us in the complex dance steps of life.

That's our God! Come, people, let us Tang-o! ■

## Angel Tree

*Angel Tree Prison Fellowship reaches out to the innocent victims of crime who are often forgotten – children of prisoners – with the love of Christ by providing them with Christmas gifts, presented on behalf of the incarcerated parent. Under Amy Cheang's leadership, NLCC undertook its inaugural Angel Tree project in 2013. Below is a short thank you from Clinton De Young, Project Manager at Prison Fellowship Western Australia.*



Because of the generosity of NLCC and its members, over 75 families and children received a Christmas gift and the good news of Jesus Christ through the Angel Tree project. The overwhelming support of NLCC was fantastic and a partnership we could not do without. We look forward to your partnership again in the years to come.

Angel Tree is such a valuable project for churches to reach out to the families in their community who have a loved one in prison and who are doing it tough over the Christmas period. It is a great opportunity to show them the love of Jesus.

I personally want to thank each and every one of you for being the hands and feet of Jesus and putting in the time and effort that you did. ■

Visit [www.prisonfellowship.org.au/angeltree](http://www.prisonfellowship.org.au/angeltree) to find out more about Angel Tree Prison Fellowship.

# Appreciating Our Workers

By Dominic Eu



Another fine NLCC lunch spread!

While bricks and concrete may physically make up a church, its heart and soul is founded in its congregation. NLCC is blessed to have faithful, Christ-centred believers who are ever willing to invest in the prospect of seeing the extension of God's Kingdom here on earth.

Through this past year, many volunteers have sowed their time into the different ministries available in church – from the administrative tasks of weekly services to the conduct of mission trips. NLCC has experienced much growth physically and spiritually as a result of these never-tiring, faithful hands.

These invaluable servant leaders were honoured at the NLCC Workers' Appreciation Lunch held on Sunday, 24 November 2013. Pastor Yat Wan Eu encouraged all workers from Colossians 1:9-12, reminding them that with God's strength and wisdom, they would produce good fruit which would allow them to share in the saints' inheritance in the light.

God's Word was followed by a sumptuous spread of local and international delights which had been prepared in celebration and appreciation. Everybody in the church enjoyed a fruitful time of food and fellowship. ■

## Thank You

By Cosby Kuria

Arriving at our destination – a place we had never been – was exciting and scary at the same time.

We never knew how we would find it living in Perth, Australia for the next two years; although my mom had arrived a few months earlier, it was a strange, new place thousands of miles from home filled with strange, new faces – and this made us feel lonely and distant.



Lucy, Cosby and Arthur Kuria

On our first Sunday, mom and dad decided it would be right for us to head for church. For me, I still did not feel comfortable enough to get out of the house and meet new people. But I thought to myself, "It is just a church service."

Mom was a frequent visitor of NLCC and so she invited us. That day changed us all. We believed that we finally found a place we felt more at home than in any other place in Australia. We felt very welcomed to the church; the members were all friendly and eager to listen and I thought to myself, "Wow, God Himself has worked through others."

Our two years with NLCC have brought life change and a spiritual opening to us and we have enjoyed all our time there. We just want to thank the members as well as the church leaders for all the comfort you have given us, for sharing the Word with us, all the church activities we have had and we believe in God that this is a church that will grow further in members as well as spiritually.

We wish you all the best in your coming years and may God bless you and make you "The Cornerstone", not only in Perth but in the country as a whole. ■

# Congratulations to Our Newlyweds!

**Aditya Ishak and Cindy Seow**  
17 November 2013  
Caversham House, Swan Valley



1 John 4:4  
"We love because He first loved us."

**Abraham Ayiro and Yvonne Nyasio**  
14 December 2013  
Nairobi Pentecostal Church-Karen, Nairobi, Kenya



Song of Solomon 3:4  
"I have found the one whom my soul loves."

**Justin Chin and Gloria Ong**  
12 April 2014  
Charnley Gardens, Burswood



1 John 4:12  
"If we love one another, God lives in us and his love is made complete in us."

## NLCC Men's Breakfast

By Brian Watts

On Saturday, 30 November 2013, close to 30 brothers in Christ came together to share in the blessing of each other's brotherly love, care and company. It was a wonderful morning, with cheerful faces sharing and talking one with another as the time for food and fellowship around the tables approached.

The meeting opened with joyful breakfast fare, followed by a competition to produce, in teams of five, a men's breakfast song. The winner of this fine competition was Pastor Yat Wan's team with an inspired rendition of "When the Men come marching in!"



Our joyful breakfast fare

Frank Ashton came to the breakfast to share his testimony with us, and more. Frank and his late wife Elsie were young farmers in the 1950s in the Frankland River/Cranbrook region of southwest WA when an evangelist, Jean Darnell, obeyed the leading of the Holy Spirit to come. As it happened, a lady in the area had wanted her to come for two years and Jean kept on saying, "No, I don't have the leading of the Holy Spirit to come at this time." One day Jean phoned and said "I am

coming!" The lady said, "You can't! The river crossing is flooded." Jean replied, "Well the Lord says 'Come,' so I am coming! You'd better get ready!"

A quick ring around got the help of many neighbours to build up the crossing with rocks for the visiting guest. And they who helped and others were invited to come to the hall to hear the guest speak.

So in God's economy the flooded river helped bring a community together to hear His Word. What followed was a meeting in power of His Spirit, in signs and wonders, prophetic words of knowledge, speaking in unknown languages and interpretation. We heard from Frank that many wives were saved, and that night the men came to hear too and many were saved in signs and wonders.

It was not a revival as there was nothing there to revive; it was a fresh outpouring on the unsaved who welcomed the Word freely. In all, some 30 couples were saved over a space of two weeks, and many went on into ministry. Frank and Elsie went on to sell their farm and pastored for some 25 years. They then retired to go on in the Lord and lead many more to Christ, as they continued faithfully to share with all who would hear.

Frank is now 87, frail, quiet of speech, and we had to strain our ears to hear him. Yet when he spoke from the Holy Scriptures, his voice swelled under the power, strength and conviction of the authority of God's Word, inspiring us as we listened.

We were encouraged in the importance of being baptised in the joy and power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of Christ, in the laying



Elder Alan Ong takes on cooking duties

on of hands and prayer, study of God's Word, and to reach souls with the gospel of salvation.

In closing he encouraged us to read and study the Holy Bible with reference from the study text *God's Prophetic Plan Through The Ages* by George D. Beckwith (1942), in particular, to obtain the study chart that comes with the book. The book is available freely at [www.baptistbiblebelievers.com](http://www.baptistbiblebelievers.com) as it is now in the Public Domain under Rule 6 of US Copyright Statutes.

With that we closed again in song and prayed for one another.

Of Frank and Elsie I would like to say a few words. Their faithful following of the Lord has inspired many in my family and others that I know over the years. "Christ in us, the hope of glory", the laying down of the old nature, the natural life of the flesh, and the embracing of the daily walk in the new life of Christ within us! Again and again, these core truths that flow from the gospel for those who are saved have empowered a 'laid-down life' for this couple, enabling their faithful walk in His Spirit, releasing power, healing and grace into the lives of many over the years, as an example for us all. It was a blessing to have our brother share with us. ■

# Reflections: Sabah Missions Impact Trip

By Melissa Chew

I had never been on a mission trip before and hence, going to Sabah with my church friends seemed like a good opportunity.

Not only did I not know what to expect from the trip, I was also afraid of being the odd one out. However, after careful contemplation and prayer, I decided to take a leap of faith.

Throughout the whole trip, I learned so much more about myself. Furthermore, God allowed me to see things through His eyes. I was able to meet different people and see different places, all of which would not have happened had I not gone. A mission trip may be about spreading the Word of God, but to me, it is also a chance to understand why there is a Mission in the first place. There are people out there who are not as fortunate as us and we can help them. And God knows where they are.

This missions trip may be my first but it will most definitely not be my last. There were so many memorable experiences such as trying to induct an autistic boy into the group, trying to cross a mountain and bathing in the river. What a baptism. ■



**Sabah Missions Impact Trip: 13-23 December 2013**

Team members: Ryan Cheah, Shane Cheah, Melissa Chew, Kristin Eu, Patricia Leong, Charmian Lin, Rosie Lin, Sarah Lin, Marcy Patsanza, Jason Seow, Shanti Srinivasan, Pastor Jason Tan, Matthew Tang.

By Shane Cheah, Matthew Tang and Shanti Srinivasan

The day after our arrival, the team headed to Villaku for a combined camp with the youth from D'Gap and Maranatha churches. We interacted well with the local youth, through games and sharing the theme of the mission, which was 'Be a Joshua'.

Two days later, we embarked with the D'Gap youth on a journey toward Timpangoh, a local village up on a mountain far, far away from internet(!). During this stay, we had the privilege of ministering to the villagers both from within the comfort of our hall and during a memorable three-hour trek through the mountains one day, when we ministered to families living along the hillside. This was a valuable experience for both the Perth team and the D'Gap youth as the majority of us had never been exposed to such a lifestyle.

After the Timpangoh trip, the Perth team alongside the D'Gap youth were tasked to conduct a two-day children's camp in D'Gap church. The children were taught the stories of Joshua and the key characteristics he possessed. The children also engaged in a series of fun-packed games and heartfelt worship. On the final night, the children were involved in presenting various short items at a concert, which was attended by their parents. It was exciting to see so many of their parents attend the event – it was the largest turnout recorded throughout NLCC's Sabah missions over the years.

During Rest and Recreation, the majority of the team went white-water rafting. Later that day, there was an evening Christmas Outreach at D'Gap church filled with games, delicious food, songs and a gift exchange.

The following day, we attended the Maranatha church service which involved a sharing by Pastor Jason Tan and a session of vibrant worship.

On our final day we were treated to a delicious dim sum lunch by Pastor Serena from D'Gap church, following which, we debriefed, prayed and departed for the airport. This trip was enriching and memorable for all, especially for those new to mission trips. Not only did we get to share God's Word with the locals, but we also forged great relationships with the youth. ■



Pastor Jason sharing the word



Befriending the local youth



Spending time with the Timpangoh children



Fun and games at the children's camp

# Cambodia Missions Impact Trip

By Joey Chia

Quite often it is difficult to put into words the experience that one has on a mission trip. To each and every individual, God reveals Himself in so many different ways. This trip was no different. We were tied together with one common purpose, and that was to be available to serve others as God's hands and feet.

This team was quite unique, not only in the enormity of the team in numbers, but also the diversity of participants from all walks of life and age groups. It was also an encouragement to witness three generations of men in a family, the Cheahs, come on board this journey together. We even had one of our team members serve as an interpreter.

During this 10-day mission trip, we were based in Siem Reap, travelling out daily to villages for ministry work on most days and spending the Sundays attending local church services where Elder SK Gan preached and the team members presented a skit and several testimonies.

The first half of the trip was spent with Brother Sophal's team while the second half was spent with Pastor Chhay's team. Without the help from their two churches, the mission trip would not have come to fruition. We are grateful and blessed to have met these brothers and sisters who are so passionate about bringing the Good News to their own people.



A Cambodian man receiving medical treatment

Our first few days comprised a hectic schedule of purchasing supplies, taking stock and learning to set up the clinics. Although most of the team were inexperienced in medical and dental services, they were readily able to pick up and learn on the go. By the third day, the setup and overall flow of the clinic was almost seamless. It was impressive how the newly-formed team could work together so quickly. Further, several team members were afflicted by various ailments but had placed aside their discomfort in order to continue to help the team.

The team worked tirelessly to support its medical professionals – the three doctors and three dentists. In all, the doctors attended to 893 patients and the dentists attended to 192 patients. The two dental students and newly graduated nurse who were on the team working alongside the dentists and doctors benefited under their generous guidance. Balloons and bubbles were a hit with the children. Some of us also took the initiative to guide the little ones in teeth brushing. Watching their comical expressions while brushing their teeth and chasing after them to apply toothpaste on their toothbrushes was priceless.

Opportunities were taken to pray and share testimonies with the villagers while they were waiting to be attended. While we were not able to help and cure everyone, we know that we have a God who is able. We prayed that every treatment, every surgical procedure would be a platform for us to meet their needs, to interact with them and share the gospel when the occasion arose.

Of course, it was not all just work and no play. During our day off, some of us had the chance to visit the floating village in Siem Reap. It was an eye-opening experience to witness the lives of people who call the waters of Tonle Sap (the largest freshwater lake in South East Asia) their home.

After 10 days and with a heavy heart, we said goodbye to Siem Reap. We trust that it is only a momentary farewell and some of us will be returning, perhaps heading to a different region of Cambodia. Will you come and be part of the upcoming team for an exciting journey? ■



Wonderful fellowship amongst the team



Dr Andre Leong attending to a young boy



Happy to be serving the community



Cambodia Missions Impact Trip: 26 December 2013 to 5 January 2014.

Team members: David Cheah, Shane Cheah, Dr Swee Fah Cheah, Joey Chia, Dr Chui Han Chong, Dorothy Eu, Kristin Eu, Fiona Gan, Joseph Gan, Joshua Gan, Mariah Gan, Dr SK Gan, Diane Keong, Florence Keong, Michael Keong, Paul Keong, Dr Andre Leong, Dr Lay Min Lew, Dr Marcus Lew, Vincent Ng, Natania Ong, Shamini Srinivasan, Nissay Tou.

# Cambodia Missions Impact Trip

By Marcus and Lay Min Lew  
(Guest dentists from Kuala Lumpur)

*During Marcus' short stay in Perth, God arranged an important meeting with Pastor Yat Wan Eu, leading him to visit NLCC. Pastor Yat Wan encouraged him to participate in NLCC's upcoming medical and dental missions trip to Cambodia. This was Marcus' fifth missions trip, and his first with NLCC.*

Upon arriving in Siem Reap, a Tuk Tuk picked us up. The weather was good: the sun was bright and the air was cool.

The team arrived two days later and it was good to meet old friends. Dr SK Gan is a great guy. Despite having to wake up at 3.00 am to catch the flight to Siem Reap, he arrived with his family and launched the team into work straight away. Andre and his team began organising the medical supplies and equipment, while SK and Joey went out to buy utilities. The gas tank, the ring and the pressure cooker were the key as mobile sterilising equipment – pretty ingenious!



Attending to a patient

Brother Sophal is a man of calibre and easy to work with. He operates from his office, "Dream Centre", where he trains orphaned children from Tonle Sap to do outreach in the villages. He has a lovely Filipino wife and two sprightly children.

We started work on the following day and everybody arrived on time after breakfast. The fellowship was exciting; the attitudes correct. We boarded on our vans, us not knowing what to expect. Along the way we witnessed all forms of creative transport. Cambodians have learnt to use a motorbike to tow a trailer with 12 people; Cambodia's version of a ute.

Large crowds were present as we arrived. NLCC members were quick to set up and the action began! The doctors had many patients to treat throughout their missions, averaging 110 people each day. The dentists had about 35 patients each day. Most dental extractions were easy. Natania and Vincent had good opportunities to interact with us. The medical team was able to perform surgeries to remove shrapnel lodged in eyes, debride gangrenous wounds, and performing wrist surgery in the villages. All these are only possible with God! Amen!

Before we realised, it was already 5.00 pm and it started to get dark. We wrapped up, greatly satisfied to reach to the locals, but also to carry out God's work with love. All in all, the team visited seven villages in two weeks.

Our one regret was not bringing our two teenage daughters, Jade and Shelly, to bond with the many youth on the trip – Shamini, Diane, Shane, Joshua, Joseph, Mariah, Dorothy, Kristin and Paul.



Youth at work – Shane, Joseph, Shamini and Diane

Food and water around Siem Reap appears to be clean. Cambodia had vastly improved since my last visit. Working with NLCC was a good experience, permanently etched in our memories. Our thanks to SK, Joey and the entire team for making us feel like we belong. It was sad to wave goodbye to all of you.

We want to say "Thank You" to Pastor Yat Wan and Pastor Angelina for the opportunity and for looking after Marcus when he was in Perth. Many thanks to Joey for being our friend and sister. If the Lord wills, we will meet again.

The purpose of this letter is to encourage more from NLCC to do outreach work. We are called to heed only one call from God: to fulfil His Great Commission (Matthew 28:16-20). It was a great experience and we recommend that you take part this year. We will! ■

## February Friday Movie Frenzy

By Joash Foo

The Movie Frenzy at New Life City Church was over four Friday nights in February. It allowed members to fellowship with friends, watch a movie, and simply chill out. I personally enjoyed the 'laid-back' atmosphere where I could unwind after a hard week!

The movies that were screened left an indelible impression in my mind and heart. The underlying themes of redemption from revenge, overcoming adversity, and self-acceptance as portrayed in the movies were both powerful and moving.

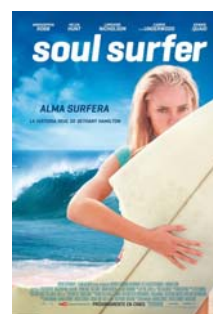
In particular, the movie *Unconditional* really inspired me. It portrayed the journey of a

storybook artist whose dreams of changing the world collided with the tragic loss of her husband. She is utterly devastated but, through a series of divinely orchestrated events, regains her dream and faith in God.

The movie served as a personal assurance that though life may be riddled with challenges, God's love is forever the anchor of our soul and the strength with which we can fulfil the dream He places in our hearts.

All in all I am amazed at what God dropped into my heart through the four weeks of movie nights as I opened my heart to him.

Looking forward to possibly more great movie events like this in the future. ■



# Testimonies: God's Miracle

Angeline, Eng Leong and their daughter were holidaying in Perth in November 2013 with Pastor Andrew Jiang and his family. Pastor Andrew has visited and preached in NLCC and has served as Pastoral Advisor to NLCC's medical Missions Impact Trips to Cambodia (2012) and Vietnam (2013). Angeline is Pastor Andrew's sister-in-law.

By Eng Leong Loh

**W**e stand here as a family to testify of God's miracle of preservation in our lives. We are also thankful for the continuous prayer support. God has heard and answered your prayers.

We were involved in a car accident while on holiday. The car actually flipped over two-and-a-half times. Miraculously, my daughter Alyssa and I were unhurt. However, my wife Angeline complained of chest pain and we sought medical attention. At Denmark Hospital, the doctor, who suspected a ruptured spleen, told me that there was nothing she could do for Angeline at Denmark Hospital, and she had to be transferred to Albany Hospital. There, the doctor told me that Angeline was indeed critically injured. Her lungs and liver were impacted. There was a kink at the spine. She had bled away all the blood in her body and they had had to keep transfusing blood to her. With life-threatening injuries, they needed to operate immediately.

Unknown to us, God had already prepared the best trauma surgeon in Perth to be at Albany Hospital that very night. He had just finished lecturing there and when informed of Angeline and her condition, he came forward and operated on her straightaway. We were told by the

nurses that if she had been hospitalised one day earlier or later, no surgeon would be experienced enough to operate on Angeline at Albany Hospital and she could have lost her life. The nurses told us that the surgeon saved Angeline's life, but we know God was the one who placed the surgeon there that very night. Praise God!

Angeline's speedy recovery was also a testimony of God's miracle. An initial projected stay of two weeks in the ICU became only three days, and she was discharged within six days with no spinal injuries at all. All glory to God! ■

By Angeline Loh

**I** thank God for His amazing peace that sustained me throughout the incident. It was indeed heartbreaking not to be able to comfort my little girl when she was crying and calling out for me at Denmark Hospital while the nurses attended to me. Yet, I knew God was in control. His peace kept me calm throughout the ordeal, even in the midst of battling for my life as I was losing a lot of blood. I also sensed the prayers of the saints which felt like hands that undergirded me as I laid in the operating theatre. Right before I passed out I heard God say, "Angie, I am with you and you will see your loved ones again."

Through it, I understood the power of the cross in a greater depth. Jesus died in our place so that we can experience life: abundant life. The amazing peace I felt was God's way of assuring me He was with me. He is indeed Emmanuel. All glory to God. ■

# Ed Delph: Man of Authenticity

By Keat Wong

**R**eturning home from a delightful and much needed, restful holiday in London, my wife Lilian and I were unexpectedly treated to an electrifying, heart-rendering and soul-searching message by guest speaker Dr Ed Delph on Sunday 16 February, our first Sunday back at NLCC.

The Sunday before we flew back, Lilian and I had worshipped at Holy Trinity Brompton, London, the home of Nicky Gumbel's well-known Alpha course. Packed to the rafters with a capacity crowd of 400 worshippers from all over the world, the morning's worship was directly telecast to its four sister churches. The sermon was electrifyingly meaningful and yet simple, communicated eloquently while being Biblically-based.

Stepping back into NLCC and hearing Ed speak reminded me of Brompton, if not being even better! It caused me to ask the question: Who is this man who is willing to fly 125,000 miles a year to speak at conferences and churches, who has travelled to and ministered in over 160 countries and has pastored in four different churches since 1980 – a noted author, columnist, teacher, business

owner, speaker and the President of the worldwide ministry, NationStrategy, a non-profit organisation involved in community transformation and enhancement?

I decided to embark on a journey to find out more. The following day, with my good wife Lilian's help, we invited Ed for dinner at the quaint Wattle Grove Motel where he was accommodated.

Over beautifully-cooked, well-plated barramundi, Ed explained to us the last chapter of the book he had presented to me just before dinner, called *Church@Community* (a cool name, I thought!) which he uses as his training manual for churches worldwide. It was one of the most engaging, refreshingly meaningful and fulfilling evenings Lilian and I had enjoyed for a long while.

Our jet lag soon evaporated as we listened and were increasingly mesmerised by Ed's passion in his ministry. It then became clearer to me that the driving force behind the innate passion of this man from arid Arizona that enables him to repeatedly and willingly get on board a plane at least once a month is none other than Jesus Christ Himself.



Keat Wong, Jason Tan, Ed Delph and Andrew Kam

Dr Ed Delph walks his talk and talks his talk. He belongs to a rare breed that means what he says and says what he means. There is a palpable presence of Holy Spirit empowerment in Ed when one gets the opportunity to sit and listen at his footstool.

To me, it was a privilege, and it only comes once in a rare moment. I would say GRAB IT ... and not MISS IT should he come to Perth again. Ever since I have come to know the Lord in 1967, I have learned to discern real authenticity from mediocrity. It is refreshing! Transforming! Empowering! Enhancing! Life-giving! And it can only be possible from the Holy Spirit.

C. Peter Wagner writes: "The desire that His people take dominion of the societies in which they live began in the Garden of Eden and it is still in effect today." Ed Delph sees our responsibility clearly, and his lucid and penetrating book is a road map that points the body of Christ in the right direction. I invite you to learn from and follow this road map. ■



# Belmont Harmony Day

By Sarah Lin

**A**rmed ready with pumps, markers, balloons and smiles, NLCC sent out a team of the young and the young-at-heart led by Pastor Angelina Eu to the Belmont Harmony Day held on Sunday 16 March to run a balloon sculpting stall. Blessed with fine weather, it was the perfect day for a community event.

It was a wonderful day and great fun for all. The children were definitely eager for their own balloons as evidenced by the swarm that only grew larger within minutes of arriving.



Balloon swords were very popular!

Many different sculptures were created and given to the excited children, most of whom asked for the good old-fashioned swords, flowers, parrots and four-legged animals. This year, the animals were brought to life by the cute drawn-on faces! Others, however, preferred something unique created just for them and asked for shields, aeroplanes, penguins and even a lovely heart shape. It was an indicator for us to learn some new creations to add to our arsenal so that we could bring a smile upon every face. Other



Belmont Harmony Day volunteers with happy kids

than twisting and working magic to bring a balloon to life, some of us were able to spend time talking to parents and the community about our very own NLCC. We handed out flyers about upcoming events and none were left afterwards, which was really positive.

Besides balloon sculpting, there were face painting, food and drink stores and various other setups by other organisations. However, the most prominent was the stage in the midst of it all. Throughout the day, stall holders and families were kept entertained by the wide variety of cultural performances ranging from dance to song.

Truly there was never a dull moment; if you weren't busy with balloons, your attention would have been cast upon the stage. With such awesome things going on, who wouldn't want to drop by each year to help out and experience the things planned for the day? I definitely will consider going once more and hope to see you next year too! ■



Balloon sculpting in action

## Working Bee Sunday: Look What God is Doing

By Tong Seng Tang

**I**t is one thing to organise a Working Bee Sunday, but it is a totally different ball game to witness the execution filled with clockwork precision, teamwork, camaraderie and, most of all, love for God!

After the service on Sunday 13 April, I fired off my briefing in double-quick time, summarised in four phrases:

*5 Areas of Work*

*1 Hour of Effort*

*Feed Us Lunch*

*We'll Snip and Crunch!*

At the stroke of 12, the power tools and water jet spray started revving, roaring and pumping at the front yard. James was already

scything his whipper snipper down the lawn, Paul started jet spraying the main gates and walls, and Andre and Brian revved their chainsaws to take down the beastly dead trees. Then a mighty army – Marcel, Steven, Ben, Bryan, Nick, Shane, Ryan, James Kalunga, Beth and Chloe – began to prune and weed out the front yard and the two sides. They moved from one area to another, helping each other.

Meanwhile, another group of valiant warriors inside the building – Pastor Angie, Soo Kum, Will, Nissai, Margaret, Florence, Hyacinth, Yvonne, Kerzang, Rena, Bernard, Patricia, Jason, Joe, Jasper, Matthew, Shanti, Shamini, Michelle, Charmian, Sarah, Yi Chiun, Jasmin,

little Micaela and Elizabeth and young Narthaniel – had set to work to vacuum the floor, tidy the stage, pack the boxes, clean the rooms and nursery, and wash the toilets.

The participation and hard work put in by the adults and youth was amazing. However, I was totally blown away when young Narthaniel availed himself to clean the toilet with Kerzang.

By 12.30 pm, the BBQ hot plate and grill reached the correct temperature to take on the onions and the sausages. Hubert, Grace and Dot tamed the flames to produce sweet, soft onions and yummy chicken and beef

**Continued on next page →**



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sausages. Without prompting, Kaylynn, Ashley, Keandria, Asha, Narthaniel, Jared and Catherine set the table, laid out the bread rolls, the sauces and the cups and spoons for dessert. Noticing the strong sunrays, our water boy, Matthew, went around distributing chilled, bottled water to all the warriors toiling under the sun.

The pressure started to mount at the BBQ area as we approached lunchtime. Our young master chefs picked up speed and churned out more delicious food onto the plates. The mixed fruit cocktail with almond jelly dessert was icy cold by then and ready to be served.

At precisely 1.00 pm, Pastor Yat Wan said grace for the meal and the children started the ball rolling, filling up bread rolls with sausages and sauces. They then did something very nice – they made sure their parents who were still working stopped to have lunch together. It was wonderful to see Kaylynn and Chloe serve Uncle James a cup of ice-cold dessert.

By 1.30 pm, everyone except Andre had eaten their sausage sizzle roll. My calculation was so precise that we were one bread roll short! So sorry, Andre, I will personally make one for you the next time I'm off from work. Finally, Jason, Michelle, Charmian, Beth and several others took charge of the clean up.

As the organiser, my three take-home messages are as follows:

- We serve because we love God. This was very evident in everyone present because I saw willingness and diligence and I did not hear a single word of complaint throughout the one-hour effort;
- Kudos to the Sunday School teachers – the children are learning to serve with joy at a very young age! Parents, you ought to be very proud of your children who served in this Working Bee Sunday; and
- New Life City Church has a multicultural congregation. God has placed each and every one of us here for His purpose. This Working Bee Sunday was just a foretaste of what God can do in and through NLCC. We have great potential. Let us be ever ready for His work! ■

# Rocking Your Way to Heaven

By Alan and Olivia Ong



HT Long, Malaysia's Elvis Presley

On Sunday 23 March, NLCC was privileged to host HT Long who is known as the 'Best Elvis Presley of Malaysia'. HT has been an ardent fan of the late King of Rock and Roll, Elvis, since he was 9. At 16, he pioneered the Elvis fan club in Malaysia and has never looked back since those early years as a true fan of the King of Rock and Roll.

Once a self-acclaimed atheist, HT came to know the Lord after the tragic death of Elvis. During his younger days, he sang in pubs and had no time for God. He had always thought that Elvis was the greatest; after all, he was the King of Rock. When Elvis died, HT started to question, "How can my god, Elvis Presley, die?"

He finally encountered the true God at a Reinhard Bonnke gospel rally at Stadium Merdeka on a November night in 1989. His life was never the same again. HT has since continued in his passion for Elvis' music and has turned this passion into opportunities to spread the gospel. He has written, composed and recorded many songs and albums using the inspirational music of the King of Rock and Roll to spread the message of the true and only Rock of all ages, Jesus Christ.

It was an interesting Sunday morning to have a sort of rock concert during service. A very interesting change in atmosphere and mood!

The concert started with a surprise opening performance from our very own Elder Tong Seng Tang. He did a solo rendition of "Love Me Tender" followed by "Hound Dog" together with his son Matthew, daughter Grace on bass, Shanti Srinivasan on keys and Jason Seow on drums. With slick moves including the famous Elvis twist, Tong Seng certainly set the mood for the morning.



"You ain't nothing but a hound dog!"

HT blessed the congregation with many great Elvis oldies together with testimonies of his walk with the Lord. The morning concert certainly brought back memories for many older ones in the congregation and for many of the younger generation, they were equally entertained and encouraged by his impersonation of someone they do not really know. Everyone from the grey-haired to the little ones running around enjoyed the many renditions of old-time favourites.



Members of the congregation dancing with HT Long



Rocking for Jesus!



HT Long at NLCC

HT's performance and testimony was a great encouragement that we can actually use the secular things of the world to bless people, and to take the opportunity to spread the gospel. What a powerful testimony!

Amen to HT and may he continue to Rock for Jesus! ■

# J-Life: A Brief Snapshot

By Bryan Sin

**T**ime, it is a wonderful thing. It is much like a bag of popcorn at the beginning of a film, full of promise and delight. Eventually all you're left with is a few hard kernels at the end of the screening.

That is what it feels like over the course of the year with Joshua Life (J-Life). For many, good memories linger with each and every dinner and catch up that we had last year, including a few at the very hospitable Gan household. Others (like me), wonder how the time went by so quickly and ponder whether the 'kernels' of 2013 remind us of a fruitful year, and whether there is so much more to be held for 2014.

For those who are unaware, J-Life is the youth ministry of this church. We are made up of a mix of high schoolers (13 to 17 years old), tertiary students (18 to 25 years old) and a handful of fresh, young working adults. We bond through meals and weekly meetings whenever possible and generally do life together. We are a funny but enjoyable mix of personalities and interests – a well-known baker, a studious medical student, dedicated children's workers, faithful ushers, a handful of healthy procrastinators and one venerable postal worker.

Without a doubt, we all know time is a precious resource, and the same goes for us – the student population! Between getting assignments in on time, handling student pressures and making sure we have enough leisure time, we enjoyed quite a number of activities over the past year.

For example, does anyone remember Joash Foo setting up the IMAGINE Community Outreach Initiative in The University of Western Australia (UWA)? Prior to September 2013, many of the J-Lifers participated in community outreaches. We tended the backyards of various homes across Perth where families and individuals had been affected by illness, disability or other circumstantial changes and have been unable to support themselves in this manner. So a typical day involved arriving in a few cars, hauling some gardening equipment and starting hacking! Eventually this led to more opportunities to serve the community, so we decided to join with IMAGINE, along with similar-



Getting involved in the IMAGINE initiative



Outdoor games

minded students from UWA to continue this work throughout 2014.

Alongside outreach events there have been fundraising movie nights (thanks to Maisie Lim and Keith Ong) and the EXPLORE Children's Day Camp hosted by NLCC across the school holidays. This was facilitated by volunteers from J-Life, and was a rewarding time. One notable memory was our excursion to Scitech, where our tireless volunteers ran around (trying) to keep track of the kids who ran around everywhere to explore the gadgets and displays. We didn't just do outreaches; when trundling along the school year, our Overdrive (high school) and campus groups would meet up routinely just to have meals, share the Word and catch up over snacks.

Our most recent event, the Outdoor Games at Tomato Lake, kicked off this year. Despite the 38°C heat, around 40 of us made the most of the sunshine, and concluded with a barbecue and pizzas at church.

Though there is so much more that can be said about the packed 2013, it has definitely been a wonderful journey. One of the things that stuck in my mind as I welcomed in 2014 was a passage from last year's teaching series, *40 Days in the Word*. The key verse, "Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path." – Psalm 119:105 (NIV) reminded me that God always has something to say, and always has something in store for us as we allow him to light up our paths. And I'm excited about what God's going to do in and through the lives of the J-Lifers. ■

## Sunday Soccer Afternoons

By Jason Seow

**W**hen an unofficial picnic to Araluen was first organised sometime in 2011, nobody expected that it would start an ongoing Sunday activity that would see many of our J-Lifers coming together every week to bond and have fun outside the walls of the church.

It was during this first picnic that a few of the youths started playing "Ultimate" – a sport involving a frisbee and a scoring system. We had so much fun that we decided to make it a weekly event, where we would play Ultimate, Captain's Ball and soccer.

We started out with just a handful of us who lived in Canning Vale, but as a few weeks went by, we decided to extend the invitation to the whole of J-Life, who seemed keen for some Sunday afternoon sports. Before we

knew it, we went from being just a small group to having an encouraging turn out of 15 to 20 people each week.

From there, the general consensus was that we would transition to spending more time playing soccer, as that seemed to generate the highest interest. While some of the ladies shied away from this more physical sport, many still continued to turn up weekly for other activities, such as having a run or just catching up with each other.

As the numbers grew, the people in the neighbourhood took notice and we have regularly had some of them join us in our soccer gathering. Our guests ranged from kids who happened to be playing in the field, to young adults who were looking to get in on the fun as they looked on eagerly from their houses nearby.

Many also saw this as an opportunity to invite their non-Christian friends to join us, both as a way of connecting with them and sharing the love of Christ with them, albeit through a more unorthodox method.

This year, the numbers have dwindled a little due to the extended period over the summer holidays when many of our youth were abroad. However, we are still looking to reconnect with the people who had joined us and are hoping to slowly pick up where we left off.

We have an indoor soccer (futsal) competition in May where we will be playing as representatives of NLCC. Pastor Yat Wan Eu has even graciously supplied jerseys for our team and we hope to use our ministry to reach out to more people, both inside and outside the church. ■

# Inter-Denominational Basketball Competition

By Matthew Tang

The WA Inter-Denominational Churches Basketball Fellowship Cup Competition was held on 19 October 2013 at Melville Recreation Centre.

This event is organised annually by Mr David Brian of Bull Creek Baptist Church, and it was the first year New Life City Church had participated. NLCC sent in two teams, a Men's Team and a Youth Team, to participate in the Advanced and Intermediate categories respectively.

As the name suggests, the "Advanced" category was intensely competitive, with teams displaying their cohesiveness and high level of skill in the sport. Despite this, our Men's Team showed their determination and competitiveness by continuously and swiftly switching from offence to defence, which in their final match resulted in a lead of 10 being cut down to only 4 points. Meanwhile, the

Youth Team won one out of their two games, which put them through to the finals in the Intermediate category.

By the end of the first half, NLCC was trailing by 18 points to Bull Creek Baptist (the defending champions) which, most basketball players would know, is a difficult score for a comeback. However, our Youth Team did not waver, entering the second half with a "never say die" attitude. NLCC ended the second half with a 20-2 offensive run making the score tied, and sending the match to overtime. Both teams exhibited their persistence and were still tied at 26-26 by the end of the overtime period. A sudden death was called by the basketball organisers, and our Youth Team made a final three-pointer to clinch the victory over the three-year defending champions.

"It's not how big you are, it's how big



Winners of the Intermediate category: Cosby Kuria, Matthew Tang, Shane Cheah, Joshua Gan, Joseph Gan and Ernest Lim

you play," is a popular saying in basketball, which was certainly the case for our Youth Team.

Both NLCC teams enjoyed the opportunity to interact with our fellow Christian brothers and sisters from other churches, as well as the chance to engage in a full day of sporting activity. We are already looking forward to participating again in 2014! ■

# Baddy Team Does NLCC Proud!

By Thomas Teoh

When NLCC was first invited to participate in the WA Inter-Denominational Badminton Competition on Saturday 29 March, the response was lukewarm and there was an initial apprehension that we would not be able to make up the numbers. However, the players started coming out of the woodwork and lo and behold, NLCC managed to field a more-than-competitive team!



Our deserving medallists!

It was a wonderful mix of youth and experience with the likes of David Lim pairing up with Albert Chiam, Wilmot Loh with Jai Pragash and Charlyne Lai with myself.

What was more wonderful was the spirit which the players brought to training and to the actual competition itself. Everyone showed great team spirit, encouragement to one another and above all, sportsmanship to other teams. Even Pastor Yat Wan gave up half his Saturday to come cheer for us!

All in all, it was a fun-filled day as we fellowshiped, joked and screamed our hearts out. It was also a very tiring day as most players had to play back-to-back games in order to complete the tight fixtures.

David and Albert gave their all against very tough opponents to claim the bronze medal for the Men's Doubles. (Joanne had to carry Albert home later!)

But special kudos go to Charlyne who won the gold medal for Ladies' Singles! The fact that she had to study for exams (she brought her notes to study in between games) made it even more rewarding!

NLCC came in third overall which is a great effort as we did not field any juniors at all. To cap it all off, the organiser called the next day to congratulate us on our efforts,



NLCC's badminton team

and made mention of our positive spirit throughout the tournament. So Anitha, Charlyne, Jerry, David, Wilmot, Jai and Albert, TAKE A BOW! You have done NLCC proud and we are proud of you! All glory to God! ■

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