



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OCTOBER 2019 – DECEMBER 2020**

# **MINISTRY REPORTS**



PART 1

**CHURCH OF CHRIST FELLOWSHIP CLAYTON INC.**





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## A PIONEERING CHURCH

pioneering new frontiers and spheres

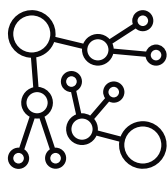
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OUR VISION IS TO BUILD  
**DISCIPLES**  
WHO REPRESENT  
**JESUS**  
TO EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE,  
WITH EVERYTHING



# OUR SHARED FUTURE

As we build these disciples, we believe we will see....



## **An enabling Church**

enabled by strong governance and the right operational support

A church that builds an adaptability in its governance and operations to enable and empower the fulfilment of the vision. A church that is above reproach as an organisation, that faithfully stewards its resources and cultivates healthy accountability and empowerment of its people.



## **A Christ-Centred Gathered Church**

thriving in groups gathered around Jesus

A church thriving in groups gathered around Jesus. A church whose head is Jesus, and whose help is the Holy Spirit. A church that reveals Jesus better together to the world than alone. A church that gathers in life groups and Sunday celebrations experiencing life transformation through the uncompromising truth of God's Word, their encounters with the Holy Spirit and the tangible love of Jesus through one another. A church that encounters more of Jesus together than alone.



## **An Everyday Church**

representing Jesus in our everyday moments

A church that believes Christ wants to be in everyone, everywhere and in everything. A church where people are freed from the disease of ME and everyday life becomes opportunities to represent Jesus - where mistakes become opportunities to model Christ-like humility, promotion to model Christ-like servanthood, work to contribute to society, family to pass the baton of faith to the next generation, hobbies to build relationships with those far from Jesus, money to bless and serve those in need. People who are discipled in the everyday and people who make disciples in the everyday moments.



## **A Local Church**

walking alongside stakeholders to transform Clayton

A church that embraces the community of Clayton as our own. We see ourselves becoming a people that walks alongside the community leaders, seeking to make the city better together. A people through whom acceptance is given, hope is re-birthed, restoration discovered and Christ is found. A people who embraces our unique calling to be His light in the most multicultural suburb in one of the most multicultural nations. A people where Jesus has broken down our walls of prejudice so we can build a diverse, multicultural and united church that reflects our community.



## **A Global Church**

reaching the unreached people groups

A church that welcomes and makes a home for international students, to disciple and send them back globally with a commitment and vision of the Great Commission. A church that focuses on global mission partnerships that empower a disciple-making movement globally among the unreached people groups.



## **A Pioneering Church**

pioneering new frontiers and spheres

A church whose focus is in making disciples that multiply. A church where leaders equip and members are empowered to change lives by making disciples of Jesus. A church that is committed to multiplying leaders who can birth vision, with the boldness and courage to lead out a disciple-making movement in different spheres of influence.



# Senior Pastor's Report

*by Pastor Chee Seng Fah*

This will be my fourth year that I have written the Senior Pastor's report for our annual report. This year, we have chosen to improve the format in which we report back to the members. Instead of having each ministry give a reflection of their annual activities, we have chosen to report back the collective impact of what all these initiatives have delivered in building disciples. Some of this impact will be measured through numbers, but some will be measured through 'stories of change' that capture the transformation in people's lives through our church.

This year was an unexpected and unprecedented year that changed the world and all the more the world of church. Yet in spite of all that has happened, it amazes me that the goodness and faithfulness of God prevails and His mission continues to move forward. If there was one word that would describe what I see is 'resilience'. The ability to bounce back and recover readily from significant changes in life.

# We saw the RESILIENCE



## **...OF OUR VISION.**

COVID-19 forced us to revisit what it means to be Christian without our building and the spiritual rhythms around it. Our vision enabled us to be adaptable and flexible, while keeping the building of disciples the main focus and not getting stuck and married to the mechanisms of how we 'do church'. It enabled us to pivot online overnight, it enabled us to accept and embrace the online world while ensuring disciple-making ministry was still front and centre through our disciple-making values. Our whole of life discipleship paradigm enabled us speak the Word of God in a relevant way to the personal issues people were facing in lockdown regarding relationships, finances and work and how those areas of our lives can be missional.

## **...OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD.**

COVID-19 was not the only significant changes our people have experienced. Over the last four years of my term as Senior Pastor, our church has been able to bounce back from a significant church conflict, bounce back from the changes of staff, bounce back from the loss of their senior pastor losing his late wife, and now I'm watching us bounce back from COVID-19. We saw the emotional resilience of individuals and our community to look outwardly and serve those in need; walk with others through sickness, providing meals for others, reaching out to those struggling with mental health and isolation. We saw the financial generosity and generosity of time to love loud our community through our local initiatives of Love Loud Meals, Sow A Seed, and Love Thy Neighbour. We saw people come to faith, being baptised, experience breakthrough, join our church community and grow closer to Jesus in spite of the difficulties of the year.

## **...OF OUR TEAM OF CHURCH BOARD, STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS.**

In spite of dealing with our personal challenges through COVID, our people were selfless to continue serving to make our online services, gatherings and groups continue in its disciple-making impact. So much of what we have invested into building the foundation of our church over the last three years has enabled us to weather through the storms of 2020 in a healthy way. I would like to take this opportunity to thank every servant of God who make all this impact possible by the grace of God. To the Board, I give my thanks for your friendship, accountability and spiritual guidance. To each of the dedicated staff members who go above and beyond, even with our social distancing. A special mention of gratitude to Pastor Greg, Kam Chee and Jessa May who finished their service with us as a pastor and friend to many. And most importantly, to the unsung heroes of volunteers who prayed, sacrificed, cared, blessed and served many in the name of Jesus.

And of course all this is only possible because God is good, faithful and in control. Thank you God for upholding us in your power, and may all glory go to you.

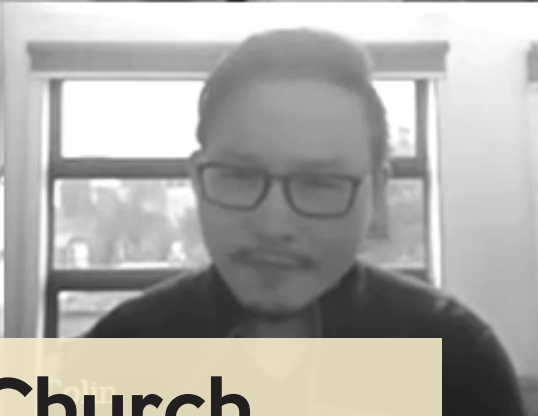
*"We are pressed on every side by troubles, but we are not crushed. We are perplexed, but not driven to despair. We are hunted down, but never abandoned by God. We get knocked down, but we are not destroyed. Through suffering, our bodies continue to share in the death of Jesus so that the life of Jesus may also be seen in our bodies."  
2 Corinthians 4:8-10 (NLT)*

# ENABLING CHURCH

REPORTS







# Church Board Report

*by Tim Wong  
Chair of the Church Board*

The Church Board is so proud of the way our church has supported each other and the local community through the challenges of this pandemic. It's a joy to see so many people take up opportunities to put our discipleship values in action.

Our sustained giving and stewardship culture puts us in a strong financial position to bless others.

Here are some of the key things the Church Board has been focused on to enable us to keep moving towards our disciple-making vision as a church:

- Working with Pastor Chee to discern the direction of our church during these disruptive times.
- Obtaining CMA Standards Council accreditation, which is an important third-party validation of our standards of governance, accountability and stewardship.
- Conducting a review of our current Church Rules so

they continue to be fit-for-purpose.

- Ensuring our policies and risk management measures are sufficient and effective.
- Developing and identifying future Board members through sub-committees and working groups.

I'd like to thank fellow Board Members Henry Kong, Colin Kwong (Treasurer), Terence Mak (Secretary) and Pastor Chee for their wisdom, humility and dedication.

Thank you to Pastor Chee and the team of leaders in our church for the leadership, compassion and commitment displayed during this time. In particular, we express our appreciation for the way Pastor Greg and Kam Chee have so faithfully served and cared for our church family these past few years.

And finally, we thank our church members for having confidence in us as we submit ourselves to serve and govern the church.

# Church Finances

by Colin Kwong  
Treasurer

As a reminder, the annual budget for 2020-2021 financial year was presented to members at a SGM last Sept, during which I gave an overview of Church Finance up until the end of August. Here I'll draw your attention to our financial performance for the full financial year.

To start, I would like to thank God, our Jehovah Jireh, for His Provision, despite 2020 being a challenging year dominated by the COVID-19 pandemics here in Australia and around the world.

Into the middle of March 2020, it became evident the pandemic was spreading fast in Victoria and widespread shutdown of public gathering places was imminent. Decision was made to close the Church building for gatherings from late March. Since then and throughout the rest of FY2020, the Church Board continued its extra-prudent approach and paid particular attention to the monitoring of our financial health, in response to the potentially protracted and severe impact the pandemic and shutdown may cause.

As we could no longer gather physically at Church, we transitioned to meeting and supporting one another online. Our congregants continued to give faithfully despite their own uncertainties, enabling the Church to maintain functioning, allowing us to reach a 100% of our General Offering budget, which incidentally was around \$80K more than what we had received in FY2019.

By God's Grace I am pleased to report our operating result for the year came to a surplus of around \$430K. Underlying the result was our eligibility to receive various government grants and subsidies, offset by the reduction of Ministry/Mission Related incomes and donations to Building Fund.

As of the end of FY2020, our Interest Free Building Loans owing was around \$180K, one third less than the year before. All remaining loans are scheduled to be repaid by the end of FY2021.

Your generosity was evident as the Sow-A-Seed Fund called for donations to help those who were in financial needs. The Fund received donations of around \$31K from inception in July to Oct, which was more than twice of what we had expected for the period.

Beyond the scope of this Church Finance Summary, more details are to be found in Part2 of the 2020 AGM Agenda and Financial Reports, from which selected results will be presented in more details at the AGM.

Praise be to God, for His Blessings and Faithfulness never cease to amaze. Despite the challenges we faced, God allowed us to arrive at the end of FY2020 in a stronger financial position than the year before. I would like to thank everyone who so faithfully gave and sowed into His Kingdom throughout the year and indeed, to God be the glory.

*"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen." Eph 3:20-21*

**Actual Income and Expense against budget showing surplus**



\*Building Depreciation of \$197,334 (non-cash item) expensed in September

# Operations Report

*by Winston Wan  
Business Operations Director*

## Facility, Risk and Compliance

2020 has been a challenging year as we find ourselves spending considerable time and effort responding to the threat of COVID-19 from a Facilities, Risk and Compliance perspective. Our COVID-19 response so far has been consistently ahead of the curve as we have taken a series of pre-emptive measures to mitigate the risk to our congregants. We have developed our COVID-19 contingency plan way back in March this year, put in place a structured building shutdown plan before the lockdown restrictions began, and have also developed a safe restart roadmap. Hand sanitisers, face masks, contactless thermometers, gloves and Isopropyl alcohol cleaning supplies were procured way in advance before stocks began to run out in Melbourne. We stayed on top of all COVID-19 developments and mandatory COVIDSafe compliance requirements, and introduced best practices like enhanced cleaning using UV light sanitisation and Bio-surface disinfectant that can protect for 30 days. We are also trial-ling the use of motion sensor touch-free taps in the toilets to minimize touching the high contact areas.

In March, the state of Victoria commenced statewide restrictions to prohibit mass gatherings to curb the spread of the virus within the community. Our church building was officially closed on 23 March 2020 and we no longer conducted physical Sunday services or ministries. However, we continued with cleaning and building maintenance activities such as electrical safety checks, emergency light checks, fire equipment servicing, grease trap, lift and aircon maintenance as part of OHandS requirements. We also took the opportunity to undertake some repairs such as painting of internal walls and ceilings damaged by water ingress and rust treatment/painting of external metal structures corroded by water in the early part of the shutdown.

In July, when wearing of face mask was made mandatory, we took the initiative to prepare packs of face masks from our stockpile to help the needy and those who have trouble getting their own.

When we emerged from the Stage 4 lockdown, we introduced the scanning of QR code, a quick and seamless way to expedite the sign-in at our year-end events for contact tracing purposes. Electronic sign-in is also a pre-condition set by DHHS to double our room capacities and still be COVIDSafe.

Thus far, by God's grace we have not had a reportable COVID-19 incident related to users of our church building. Praise be to God!

## Finance, IT and Administration

Despite the lockdown, it has been a busy year for us in the areas of Finance, IT and Administration.

We have applied for various COVID-19 government help schemes where applicable, as our total revenues including our building donations and other income like room rentals, Sunday lunch sales have declined by more than 15% year-on-year. These government grants have helped to avert a budget deficit this financial year. Additionally, we have been proactive in cost management like negotiating with some vendors to defer services or payments and undertaking some of the building maintenance ourselves.

We have also done a comprehensive insurance review during the year to ensure that the church is adequately covered and have mitigated the financial risk to the church substantially with the National Redress Scheme insurance cover.

To support our *Sow A Seed* campaign and meal delivery initiative, we have worked with our local ministry team to come up with a streamlined finance process for the collection of donations, reimbursement of expenses and to provide weekly tracking.

Our team has also been busy setting up a HR Cloud software to help manage staff contracts, put together a comprehensive policy handbook and set up a system to facilitate staff goal setting and development.

We continue to refine the data in our Elvanto church management system and to extend user access to ministry leaders, zone leaders and life group leaders to help them manage their respective groups and gatherings better.

Other IT initiatives include the introduction of a new e-fillable Elvanto Event/Room booking request form which is accessible from our church website to make it easier for all to book the church facilities for their respective ministry use. We are also in the midst of developing new Elvanto forms to allow for electronic vetting of our volunteers to comply with our Working with Children policy.

To facilitate staff working from home during the shutdown, we find ourselves increasingly leveraging the use of technology such as:

- Signing up of several common church Zoom accounts for meetings and a booking system to optimise the sharing of these accounts among the different ministries
- Actively using the video door answering system and CCTV cameras to monitor the church premises remotely during lockdown.
- Remote call forwarding of all church phone calls to mobile phone
- Use of wireless tag sensors to monitor kitchen fridge and freezer temperatures to alert us if there is a huge temperature variance

This year has been unprecedented and we thank God for His continued protection and His providence in a difficult year. God is good!



# Central Ministry Systems Report

by *Sharon Wong*  
Global and Ministry Systems Director

Ministry Systems was a new department which started at the end of 2019, but it proved to be one of the most important pieces of the 2020 online church puzzle! At the beginning of the very first lockdown, with the help of Sharon Lee and the Ops Team, we managed to get our church database and mailing list to be the most up to date it had been in years, in order to ensure clear and timely communication with the church congregation.

With every online webinar hosted, we saw more and more visitors from outside our church participating, including a small handful of people who don't regularly attend church. Even though we couldn't tell how many newcomers and visitors we had visiting our online services each week, with the new systems and processes Sharon Lee put in place for Connections, we assimilated 18 people into different Life Groups throughout 2020 and had 8 newcomers attend our online Meet and Greet in November.

For the first time, we started recording attendance in our online Life Groups, and were able to have a deep and thorough understanding of the different demographics and sizes of our groups, making the search for life group placements a breeze.



People assimilated into  
**Life Groups**



**11** People attended  
**Membership Class**



**8**

**Newcomers**

at our Virtual Meet and Greet



**6**

**Webinars**



**2**

**Salvations**



## Story of Change

“We first heard of Clayton Church of Christ through Krijstelle’s work colleague. They briefly mentioned that they used to go and had very positive things to say. We were praying for a new church community at that time and during the lockdown we decided to check out Clayton Church of Christ’s Sunday sermon on YouTube. The worship and message really encouraged us as we were going through a time of transition and challenges both in our professional and spiritual journeys.

After a few weeks of listening to the online sermons, we decided to finally send an email and introduce ourselves, the method for newcomers to contact the church was very well presented in the online medium.

A few weeks after, Sheron and Geoff invited us to their life group’s game night on zoom and we got introduced to all their life group members. Initially, we weren’t sure what to expect, joining a video chat with strangers to play games. However, we had a real connection with everyone, as everyone was friendly and very welcoming, it made us feel right at home.

There were several online events that made us feel connected to the church community such as Pastor Kyle’s quiz night (which was extremely funny) and the newcomer’s lunch.

We continued to join Sheron and Geoff’s life group, through the bible studies and game nights and finally in December we got to meet everyone in person for the first time during the life group’s Christmas party. We are very glad to have met everyone from Clayton Church of Christ even during the lockdown and can’t wait to physically meet on Sundays and get to know more people in the wider church community!”

Sam and Krijstelle Lee

# CHRIST-CENTRED CHURCH

REPORTS







# English Service Report

by Phanin Soeur  
Service Ministry Director (English Campus)

This year started with so much promise! We had the year planned out with events, services, new teams, a camp for 2021! But things quickly changed and we all had to bunker down to learn new skills. Many may say, “2020 was such a waste” or “2020 was a dreadful year”... I think it was a tough year, but a year that ‘needed’ to happen. It taught us much as we were pushed, challenged and changed. God’s church was thrust into online church, an area not yet explored for us at Clayton. However, it meant that the experience of church services and what God is doing and saying was available to people (even from across the world) who would otherwise have not been comfortable walking into a church building.

So what did we learn and what did we do? Because we’ve had to plan for moving towards a hybrid service where people can attend church either face to face or online, we needed to build a bigger technical team to accommodate the extensive editing of vision footage and mixing of audio for an engaging and clear online broadcast. We thank everyone who has joined us in the recent weeks.

During lockdown, the team had a few Zoom catch ups, separate online training, and brainstorming sessions for creative ways to deliver our services. There were lots of

stressful periods for everyone and I thank each member of the team for persisting and pushing through to help put together services for our people each week.

I won’t lie, this past year was hard, it took a lot of work to bring a service each week, there were lots of really long days and long nights! But I thank God for the team! They stepped up and gave their all and I think 2020 has actually been an amazing year of growth!

Also, a special mention and thanks to Hannah Stephenson, Janice Khoo, Robbie Wong, Nic Lee, Naomi Kwong, Steve Hyson, Geoff and Sharon Wong. Thank you to the Worship and Services teams!

To give some further perspective, here are some testimonies from a couple of people, one who is a longstanding team member, and one who recently joined the team.

# 584

## subscribers

An increase of 511 throughout 2020



# 256

## live viewers

Average each week

# 7226

## viewers

Average per month



## Average Duration of Views

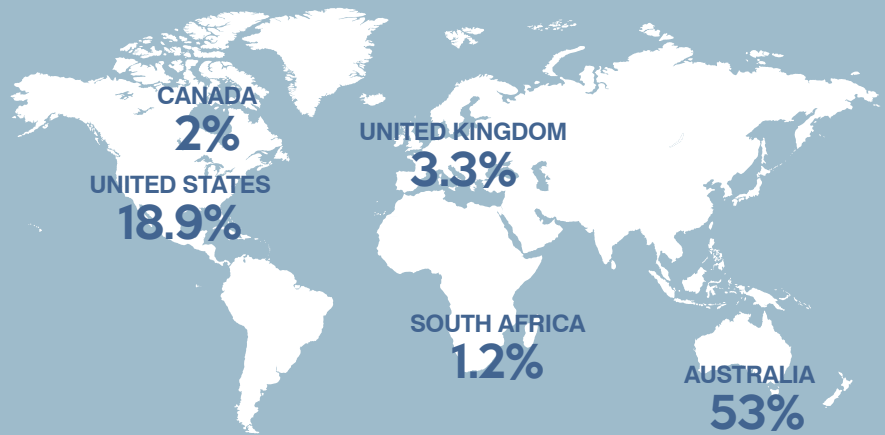
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# Top 5

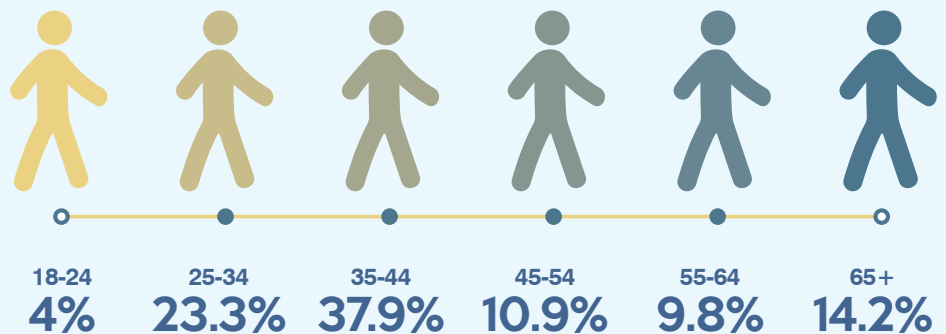
## countries

viewers are from



# Age demographic

of viewers



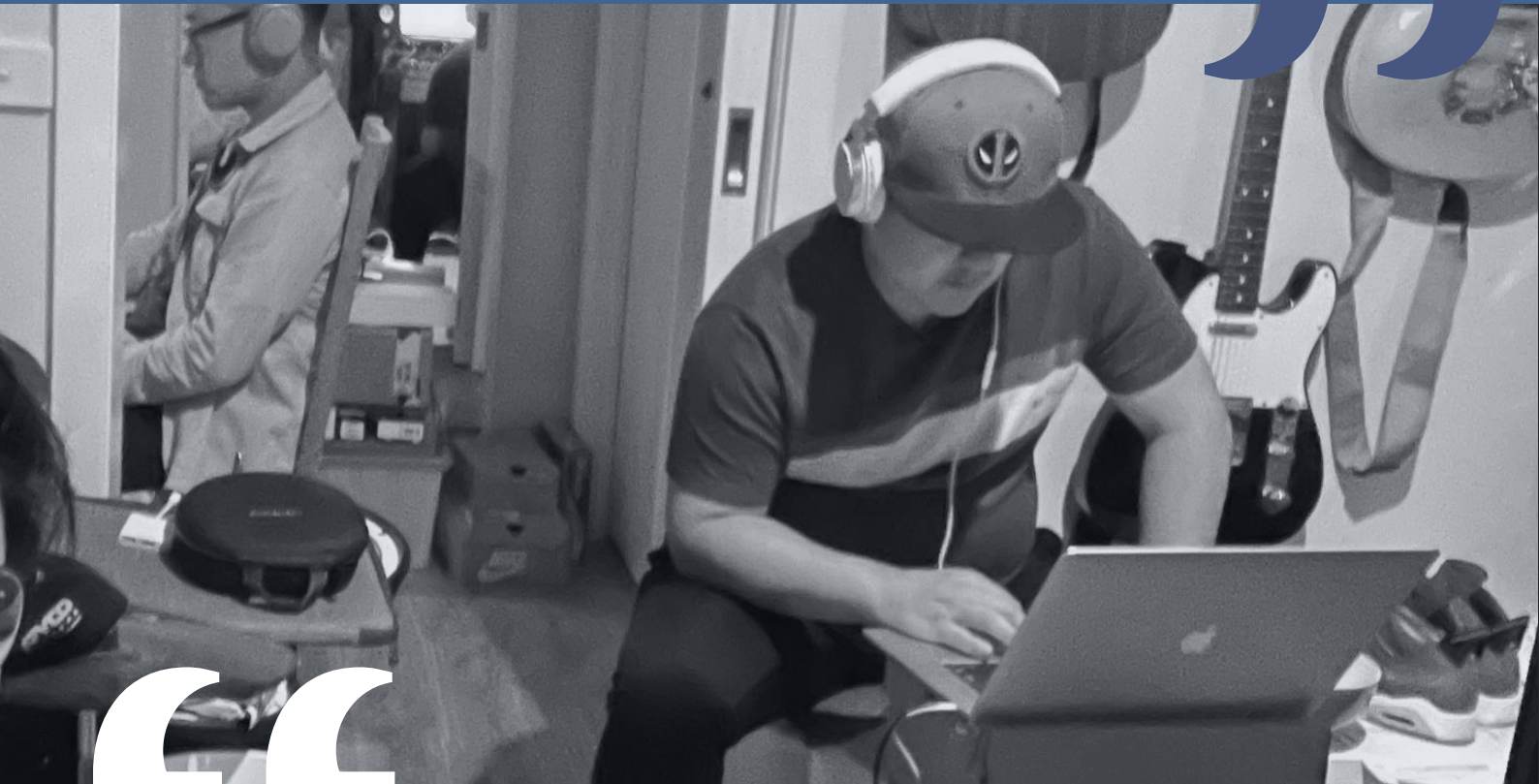




## Stories of Change

Being on the worship team has been a privilege this year. It's been exciting, challenging and always changing, but has also been rewarding and a great learning experience. I've really appreciated the leadership that our church has shown to be on the forefront of all the changes, and by God's remarkable grace, we have pretty much been in front of every change and remained steady through the unpredictability of 2020. Most of all I've really found joy in the shared commitment to the love of music, each other and most of all, worshipping God, that the team has had that has seen us grow stronger, closer and better at what we do in serving our God and our church family.

**Robbie Wong**



We went from meeting face to face to church online, and it took a bit of adjusting but the team have managed to transfer what we enjoyed during face-to-face services to something that's online. We love watching Church via YouTube together on Sunday mornings. The kids really enjoy seeing other kids on screen during announcements. We love worshipping together at home and learning from the powerful sermons. But we are also looking forward to coming back to church soon!

**Cecylia Kee**





# Groups Report

*by Pastor Kyle Schroder*

*Groups and Generations Pastor (English Campus)*

2020 was a defining year for our Life Groups. While we may have felt like we had every reason to take the foot off the pedal and drift away from our communities, we found that our community at Clayton Church of Christ did quite the opposite.

The year saw a staggering doubling of efforts as most Life Groups reported that not only were the attendances more consistent with almost all people present, we also saw most Life Groups choosing to meet even more regularly. It was an affirming statement that relationships are important, that our groups are not bound by the need to meet in person, and that our church's value of experiencing more of Jesus together is true.

Of course, all of this would not be capable without the incredible work of our Life Group leaders and the support of our Zone Leaders. Thank you for all you have done, and for all the ways your serving has added souls to the Kingdom.



## Youth

4

Life Groups

49

People in Life Group

7

Life Group leaders

## Young Adults

4

Life Groups

74

People in Life Group

10

Life Group leaders

## Adults

29

Life Groups

342

People in Life Group

84

Life Group leaders



2020 was definitely a year to remember! The Generations ministries were met with the same ultimatum that most organisations, businesses, and ministries were met with: do we change or do we cease? And the leaders and ministries responded in the most wonderful fashion. The Kid's Church, led by Margaret and Eve, jumped online with gusto and made changes on the fly. Emerge Youth, led by Duc, adapted to the virtual world quickly and found ways to make it work well for both leaders and youth. Campus was only a week into its calendar when the year took a turn, and so we paused it for 2020. Young Adults, led by Ash and Rach, not only relocated online, but numbers grew and were more consistent in the Life Groups.

I am sure that a large part of your 2020 was spent looking at numbers and statistics...and that is not always fun. So, we thought we would throw some numbers your way that will brighten your day and shine a light on all the amazing things that have happened through the year.

# Next Generations Report

*by Pastor Kyle Schroder*

*Groups and Generations Pastor (English Campus)*

**ONE** – Emerge Youth started intentionally mentoring a lot of the youth in a One-to-One system and in this system we saw one of our youth girls saved. PRAISE THE LORD!!

**TWO** – It took about two weeks for the Kid's Church team to figure out how to run everything online and develop a fun and interactive Zoom Kid's Church.

**SEVENTY-EIGHT** – To add the previous point...there were seventy-eight Kid's Church sessions this year. WOW. What an amazing team.

**TWELVE** – I know...the number system is confusing because you thought it would go in numeric order... WRONG! There were twelve "Parent Connect" sessions held over zoom where parents, both in and outside of our church community, were able to connect and hear some helpful advice on parenting. (most are available on our YouTube channel)

**THIRTY-ONE** – Our Life Groups GREW in 2020. We ended the year with thirty-one Young Adult and Adult Life Groups. Our Life Groups reported higher attendance, and nearly all the groups met more regularly and added new people to their numbers. Community is important!

**FIFTY-TWO** – The Young Adults hosted a Trivia Night and we had fifty-two young adults join us for some fun online.

**ONE HUNDRED** – OK, this one is a bit clichéd, but our ministry leaders and volunteers gave the year 100% effort to make it work, and most importantly to make disciples. We are so blessed. Thank you to each and every one of you.

And finally, **TWENTY-TWENTY** – It was a good year. It was a hard year, but it was a good year because at the end of the day we can look back and see that we moved forward in our Vision: To build disciples who represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere, with everything.



## Story of Change

Six months ago, my mum got a text from Naomi Kwong, one of my youth leaders from church. She said that she had been praying for a few weeks, to find a person from our youth life group (Junior Girls), to mentor, and journey with, and had decided on me. At the time, I was a bit confused and didn't really want to do it, as I was confused as to what a discipleship journey actually meant, because I had never been 'mentored' before. But looking back at it, I can see how big of an impact it had on me, and my relationship with God.

Every week, Naomi and I spent an hour and a half together, talking about life. Sometimes we would just chat and talk about what was happening in our lives. Other times we delved into deeper topics, and analysed Bible verses together. Spending this time with Naomi really helped me learn things about myself, both the good and bad. I learnt how to deal with stress and anxiety, learnt how to talk to God comfortably, and also learnt how to journal and do devotions. We also talked about personal issues and dilemmas we faced, and what would be the best road to take. I feel like this experience really changed me as a person and allowed me to learn more about God.

Obviously now, it's not like I'm completely transformed. I'm still a moody teenager at times, I still get mad at my parents, I still find it hard to concentrate during church sermons (not because they're boring, but because of my

short attention span =)). I still have a very long way to go. But because of Naomi's help and guidance, along with the weekly youth sessions, I find that it's a lot easier to talk to God now. Being mentored makes me feel like I'm not alone in this journey. I feel supported.

Speaking of youth, during COVID youth definitely looked very different compared to what I'm used to. Instead of playing really physical games in Room 3, we played an online glamorised version of Pictionary. Instead of being led in worship by an amazing team of teens, we worshipped over Zoom. At times the sound didn't sync up and everyone ended up singing at different speeds. Instead of being blessed with an amazing supper at the end of the night, we held cupcake baking competitions at home which produced results that did not in any way resemble a cupcake (at least for me.) However, even though it was different, even though there were inconveniences, the one thing that never changed was the mood. Everyone was still laughing, still enjoying themselves, and the sense of togetherness was never lost, not once. Honestly, at times I even enjoyed some online youth sessions more than the actual sessions, they were that good.

So that was my experience of youth during COVID and being mentored by Naomi. I hope that this gave you some sort of idea of what Youth looked like, and how some things changed during COVID - for the better.

**Leviana Lawrence**





# Young Adults Report

*by Ash Chan and Rachael Lim*

Young Adults Ministry over the last year has experienced consistent growth in numbers and an increase in attendance despite the challenging circumstances. During times of restrictions, most of the young adults were quick to embrace the changes to online format and continued to forge robust life group communities through studying God's word, support and care for each other through difficulties and expressing neighbourly love by acting on community initiatives such as Love Loud. Although this may not have been the year that we had planned for or expected, however, the young adult's life groups have banded together stronger.



## Stories of Change

Despite the year 2020 has been, our life group has found a way to continue to grow and connect with each other deeply. An example of this was during the lockdown, one of the girls in our life group reached out and expressed how they were struggling. From this, we decided to do a weekly girl's catch up where we had an opportunity to share with each other the struggles and successes we were experiencing. From these weekly catch-ups, we were able to form a deeper bond and friendship, here we truly experienced doing life together.

**Zak and Louise Cassar**

As 2020 changed our life groups meeting platform to Zoom online, it was great to see most of our life group members embrace the new format throughout this period of physical separation. It was noted that regular attendance rates were slightly higher possibly due to the convenience of Zoom and alignment to the Sunday Service timeslot. Not having to physically travel after a long day of work may also be a contributing factor, which is at times is a struggle for young working adults on our usual Wednesday night meetings.

The implementation of Zoom also provided an opportunity for our life group to extend our geographic reach, with one of our life group members being a doctor from Clayton Church who was working in Albury / Wodonga. Our weekly bible study with this life group member allowed her to continue being connected with Clayton Church of Christ community. This assisted with a smooth transition for this member as they have now found employment this year back in Melbourne.

**Levi Truong, Ben Ruhl and Yora Nguy**



Although 2020 had been a challenging year, it was also a year of growth for our life group as we welcomed in 6 new members and saw a commitment by one member for baptism in 2021. We also observed the members becoming more proactive within the group's discussions, activities and making suggestions for things we can do together like devotional series, Love Loud projects, and other ways of encouraging each other to act upon what we learned during the weekly sermon discussions. In a way, we were brought closer together despite the period of physical separation.

**Levi Truong, Ben Ruhl and Yora Nguy**





# Gatherings Report

*by Shamilla Thiru  
Local, Gathering and Care Director*

Our vision is to build disciples who represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere with everything. One key platform to build disciples is through our Gathering spaces – enabling these Gathering spaces to be Disciple Making Movements (DMM) as we continue to build disciples.

Our goal is to provide a space that helps towards:

## **1. Building of You**

- In the area of spiritual growth, strengthening one's personal relationship with God besides helping individuals discern Gods' calling/assignment for them
- A place where our G.R.A.C.E values can be expressed and experienced together
- A safe space to connect, build, grow, share, encourage one another to go forth and witness for Jesus

## **2. Building of Others**

- A safe space for non-Christians to connect and socialise – by offering whole of life discipleship equipping on common life issues in the area of Work, Relationship, Finances and Personal Growth
- A safe space for Christians and non-Christians to form community, build relationships, form genuine friendships and have fun
- As of late last year, we have streamlined our gathering space to 4 key areas: Embrace, Empower, Enrich and Migrant English.

Empower kick started 2020 by bringing men from all walks of life on a fishing trip in February. However, when COVID-19 hit, Empower shifted to focus on helping men stay connected with their first Zoom event in July, and then celebrating Father's Day by honouring different men in their lives. One of the most impactful events was the Mental Health Session with Dr Danny Cheah, where we saw 40 men come and be equipped with self-care tips they could take away.

Due to Covid 19, Enrich and Playgroup were unable to operate as usual. We will continue to assess, pray and discern how best to take these gathering spaces forward for the near future.

We ran one session of Alpha in 2020. As of 2021, Alpha will be part of our Assimilation initiatives as it's best placed.

Wednesday Café which started late November 2016 under the leadership of Peter and Soan Koh with the key focus of sharing God's love and reaching the lost in our local community, will come to an end of season this year.

Over the four years, Wednesday Café has successfully achieved its purpose, working in synergy with our Migrant English gathering space. In view of the overlap, the team has decided that the best way forward would be for Wednesday Café to come to closure as of 2021 onwards.

We would like to thank Peter and Soan Koh for their leadership, passion and dedication in this Ministry and also all the volunteers that have been serving lovingly in this space.





# Embrace (Women's Ministry) Report

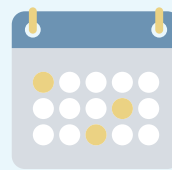
by Juliet Soeur

In 2020, Embrace ran a number of online events, including a Women's Mental Health Webinar with Dr Judy Wilkie, two combined events with Empower Men's Ministry to learn about photography on our phones with Karen Woo and Will writing with Peter Ng, as well as 17 exercise sessions over Zoom.

Due to COVID, the usual community-run Mothers Groups and Playgroups were not available, and we knew it was crucial for new mums to journey together, encourage and learn from one another. So we formed a New Mums and Bubs chat group who met on many Wednesday evenings via Zoom between July-November, and they finally met in person in December!



**17**  
exercises  
sessions held  
over Zoom



**2**  
events  
combined with Empower  
(Men's Ministry)



## Stories of Change

Never thought I'd say this, but I thank God for technology and social media, especially this year. I've always looked forward to the Embrace Zoom exercise sessions as a way to stay physically healthy and psychologically sane during lockdown. We ladies were able to keep fit by trying different workout videos on YouTube – my personal favourites being kickboxing, Latin dance workouts and walking to Abba songs. We also had the opportunity to chat and bond with each other throughout the pandemic. So if you like sharing life stories with the sisterhood (and don't mind a bit of sweat) come join us next time!"

**Sze-Ning Chuah**



As a first time mum, not being able to join any mother's group to meet other mums to share this "new" life with was challenging. As most of my friends are not mums yet, I felt quite isolated and lost sometimes. Then came this group, which was a smaller version of the MandM and it's been amazing!

The Zoom catch ups and chat group were a space where I can share and hear from others. Everyone is so supportive without casting any judgement. We laughed and we cringed together, all to share the joy of motherhood. Having some second time, third time mums in the group helps reassure me that God has made each of our child unique and there's light at the end of the tunnel when we are going through a tough patch.

After our meet up in person, while it was great to see all the little ones, I must admit that it's easier to chat and connect over zoom without having to keep an eye on Jensen constantly! So I'm thankful for the Wednesday night mama chats we had. Thanks for bringing us together!

**Karen Wong**

It's funny because I was telling David I feel even more connected to the church community this year during restrictions than I did when we were meeting physically at church. I suppose it was more of a 'hi and bye' at Sunday services, whereas the lockdown made community connections more crucial and creative. We've been able to attend meetings and courses online that would have otherwise been difficult if we had to attend physically with kids.

If this mums' group is counted, I'd say it's been a huge blessing to me this year! I've gotten to know so many mums better this year, even more than when we were physically meeting in church. Thanks for initiating it, Embrace :)"

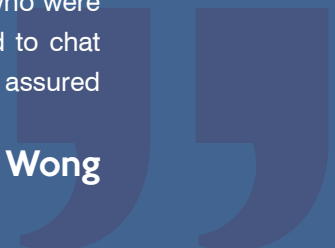
**Vanessa Tay**

On a typical Sunday after church we'd be doing the mad "get home and nap" dash, and it's hard to invest in new friendships in person. I've found the mums group very helpful. Similarly, we had been wanting to become church members for years, but could never make the session. Zoom was helpful for that!

**Haley Pease**

Being around people gives me energy, so this past year of online events has gone against my natural preference. However, despite unreliable internet, accidental muting/unmuting and staring at a series of boxes on the screen, I've been able to see God impacting lives in beautiful ways. One example of this was during the Mental Health Embrace event with Judy Wilkie. I had the opportunity to facilitate a diverse small group of women who were visiting this Clayton online event. There was one woman who I sensed wanted to chat further and I introduced her to the guest speaker. This resulted in her praying to be assured of her salvation through Jesus and the start of a new friendship.

**Carmen Wong**





Recording



# Migrant English Report

by Gwen Liu

After a very slow start to the year with only about three students per class at the church, we had a brief stop in classes due to COVID. By the end of the year, we averaged 28 students on Tuesdays and 60 students on Fridays via Zoom.

One of our key highlights included the transition from physical classes to Zoom classes. It was a slow start at first with teething problems but finally started using things such as breakout rooms to allow more time in smaller groups for students to practise their English speaking.

Traditionally we have a short class on our final day then gather together for a talk from one of the Pastors, usually in Mandarin. We followed a similar format on Zoom this year, gathering in a big group with two students from each class sharing what the year had meant to them.

Most of the students are non-Christians, but some shared how they had come to know Christ and grew in their faith by coming to English class. Others, including a lady from Kazakhstan, shared about how her English improved through attending class.

A 73-year-old gentleman and his wife from the beginner's class, who are non-Christians even sang Amazing Grace in English with us, praising God.

Using Zoom has also meant that people in China could still join in on our classes. One of our helpers who does a lot of translating and interpreting during class was able to continue helping us, as well as some students, even though she was physically in China.

Another person that has been helping with classes was able to attend most weeks as she didn't have to do a long commute – She could briefly stop work to help then quickly return to it again.

God provided new helpers to become involved later in 2020 when COVID stopped their other activities. For this we are truly grateful. It meant we could have smaller breakout groups and more involvement by individual students.

# Wednesday Cafe Report

by Peter Koh



The aim of Wednesday Café outreach was to bless the Clayton community by inviting people from the street with free afternoon tea in our church café on alternate Wednesdays. The visitors were from different countries, but most were from Mainland China. The café ministry was suspended due to COVID restrictions.

In the period before the COVID restrictions (from October 2019 to March 2020), Wednesday Café has been quite rewarding in reaching out to Mainland Chinese people by building friendships, practising English conversations and having discussions on life issues, resulting in a number of decisions and baptisms. Praise God for His leading. Helpers from different Life Groups and from our Chinese congregation have worked well together.

As God leads, the team has decided to discontinue the Wednesday Café ministry as of 2021 onwards.





# Chinese Service (Ji En) Report

by Ji En Leadership Team

The coronavirus pandemic has posed significant challenges for churches and Ji En was no exception. However, God is using this difficult season to prepare Ji En for unprecedented opportunities. Let the figures speak for themselves.



# 65

people assimilated into  
**Life Groups**

# 4



**New Life Groups**

# +28%

**Weekly Offering**



# 13

**Baptisms**

# 20

**Salvations**



Ji En launched two new ministries in Oct 2019

- Cantonese worship service: it has not only cared for Cantonese speaking members in Ji En, but also provided a favourable circumstance for developing Cantonese ministry in the Clayton area.
- Sunday youth gathering: It has unblocked the bottleneck of nurturing this age group, which had been Ji En's struggling area for it needs native English-speaking leaders.

Four new life group/class were setup in 2020

- A group comprising Mandarin speaking women and mums around the Brighton area.
- A group comprising people residing in China
- A group branching out from an existing group
- A weekly Bible study class with 18 regular attendees.

By God's grace, the pandemic crisis has opened an incredible window of opportunity for us to make substantive and positive changes. While we uphold our church's five disciple making values, it is fascinating to see specifically how God is working in Ji En by the application of "Connecting".

1. Our leadership team and members are more unified in the midst of the challenges. This crisis has brought us even closer in praying and serving together. More of our members are focused beyond themselves. During the time of streaming worship services and online gathering, special thanks must be given to all our life group leaders, our worship team, AV /IT team, Sunday school and youth ministry team leaders. They have been dedicating their time and effort every single week. God is preparing them to move in greater passion and obedience to the Great Commission and the Great Commandment.

2. The move started with the value of "Connecting":

- **Connecting with God** – 60% of life groups has started daily systematic Bible reading and devotion sharing during the lockdown period.
- **Connecting with people** – The Ji En community is more receptive. Many members have been highly intentional to reach out to people in need of help in the community. Prayers and practical help offered to Bo-Wen and Xiao Lai's families were typical examples for Ji En life groups' working together to represent Jesus.
- **Connecting with non-believers** – There have been almost 70 participants attending English classes with almost half of them joining the preliminary class which, by God's grace, received much support from Chinese speaking Ji En members.

3. We have prepared for on-line worshipping well before the lockdown policy. When our members were exposed to a variety of worship experiences, they became aware of an expanded world that has many opportunities to advance God's Kingdom. New leaders were raised through an on-line caring and nurturing process. Consequently, the pandemic has expanded wider opportunities for disciple making.

At last, Ji En members are anticipating and celebrating re-gathering in person in January of 2021. This pandemic has made all of us realise that our church, as imperfect as it is, truly is a blessing from God. While the window of opportunity will remain, we pray for God's wisdom and guidance for us settling in the new norm of disciple making to represent Jesus to everyone, everywhere, with everything.

# **EVERYDAY CHURCH**

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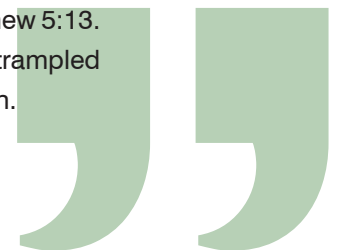
## Story of Change - Reawakened

The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber because our salvation is nearer, now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over” - Romans 13:11-12

I lived my life with the hope that in time God will meet my dreams if I was faithful to Him. When I thought that God was finally going to fulfil my dreams, it took a different turn. I was broken and shattered. How could it be? I mean, I had people prophesying that it was to be, but it didn't. Did I misjudge His prophecy, did God change His mind and decided not to grant it because I had an inkling of doubt in the last moment?

For a long period of time, I harboured resentment towards God of which I was in denial of. Though I was hurt and felt betrayed, I tried to “hide” these feelings from Him, because after all He was God, He could do what He wanted, who was I to question His motives. Over time, I started to harbour a distrust that He had the best intentions for me. I began to devalue myself, believing that I was worthless, insignificant and undeserving of His blessings.

When a friend pointed out to me that I was spiritually sick last year, it became a turning point, as I realised that I was the salt that had lost its saltiness as described in Matthew 5:13. So how do I regain my saltiness? Because the thought of being thrown out and trampled underfoot scares me. I do not want to be excluded from His inheritance in Heaven.





Little did I know then that God was preparing a path for me, the journey to regain my saltiness. I was invited by my life group leader to attend Hillsong Women (Colour) conference 2020. I was desperate for a change, so I decided to attend. I wanted more than anything to have God reclaim the throne of my heart. I wanted to be in love with Him again. But I was struggling with the “how”. So, I went to the conference with an expectant heart, hoping that God was going to speak something of value to me at the conference. And He did. At Colour, all the guests were gifted with a gift, however it was not the item itself that moved me, it was the packaging. For written inside the lid of the gift box, these words were spoken

“Be still and Know.

Be still and know that the desires of your heart are heard.

Be still and know that your steps are directed by the Lord.

Be still and know that you were born for such a time as this.

Be Still and know that He is God.”



“I slept but my heart was awake” - Song of Songs 5:2 NIV

Moreover, on the last night of the conference God used Bobby Houston to remind me of the verse He had given me at the start of the year as what I should be striving for this year “Delight yourself in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart” - Psalm 37:4 ESV

What I was seeking, I felt God was revealing. I left the conference feeling enlightened and equip for the journey ahead.

The pandemic hit a few days after the conference, and we were soon in our first stage of lockdowns. As an Anaesthetic nurse, we were called to assist with COVID intubations, therefore putting ourselves as risk of COVID aerosol. I was scared. However, God showed that He cared for me and that I was under His protection. So many people messaged me to let me know that they and their family were uplifting me in prayer. Though cases were

rising in Melbourne, the fear that I originally had was gone. Instead, I had a sense of peace, because I knew God had my back as He had sent my church community to uphold me in prayer. He also gave me a support network through my colour sisters to guide me through this period.

COVID bought a time of forced rest for me. God foresaw it and foreknew that my time of running around like Martha was up, and I needed now to be Mary, to dwell at his feet. Getting back to the verse that He had given me at the start of the year, Psalm 37:4, “delight yourself in the Lord”, so how do I begin to do that? I began to look into it in different translation. One of the translations reads “Be happy that the Lord takes care of you. He will give you what you want” (EASY). Further on in verse 7 it says, “Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him”. So here, God was saying that I need not do anything at all, all I have to do was be still before Him and be happy that He provides for me. All I had to do was to continually seek Him.

One Sunday morning, I was woken with a song “See the Light” (Awake, Hillsong Worship Album), I kept singing that song as I was getting ready for online service. As I attended the service, what do you know? The worship leader lead us into this same song as well. It felt like God was speaking directly to me as He was calling for my soul to ‘Arise’ from slumber as now He was awakening me to see His light. Don’t ask me what the sermon was about that day because all I remember was that I was too busy having a delightful conversation with God to pay heed to what the guest speaker was saying.

In that moment, God was making me salty again. I felt He was restoring me. It was not the picture that I had envisioned for myself, it was far better. God was in fact restoring back to me “the joy of my salvation” - Psalm 51:12. A joy that had been lost long ago. Though God could have washed His hands clean of me because of my poor behaviour, He chose to pursue after me. He found me before I was completely lost. I am enthralled and humbled by this revelation. It was then that I realise that though certain dreams and desires that I had on earth may not be met, it was ok, because God had given me the greatest gift of all. And if He decided to grant me the earthly things that I desire, then they will just be added blessings.

Thank you for taking the time to read my sharing, if you do find yourself to be like me, feeling like you are starting to lose your saltiness. Know that it is not lost, He can make you salty again. But you must first begin to ask, you must begin to seek, because those who seek shall find (Matthew 7:7).

**Kah Ung Sia**

# LOCAL CHURCH

REPORT



*by Bill Pontikis (Local, Crisis Care Director), Shamilla Thiru and Nic Lee*

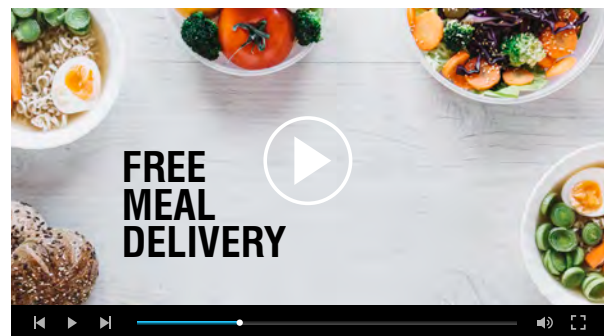


The 2020 season for Love Loud has naturally been challenged by COVID-19 and the related lockdowns. However, it hasn't stopped us, as a Church body, from continuing to follow in obedience to representing Jesus to our local community. In this way, God has demonstrated that when we make ourselves available to Him, He will continue to work and build His church.

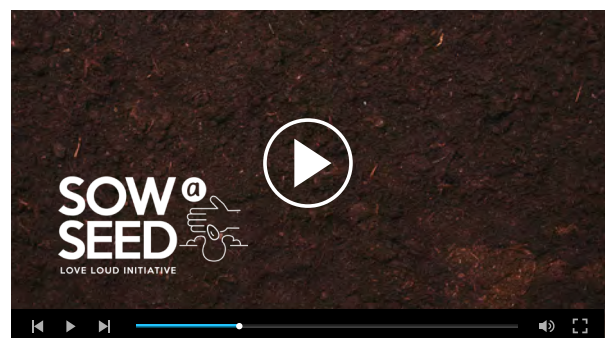
This report has been written to capture and complement much of what has already been shared throughout our December / Love Loud message series. Pastor Chee provided a good summary during his Christmas Day message.



Love Loud 2020 was the combination of three initiatives.



FREE MEAL DELIVERY - SINCE APRIL 2020



SOW A SEED - SINCE JULY 2020



CHRISTMAS CAMPAIGN 2020



Whilst COVID presented unique circumstances and restrictions that we had to adapt to, God showed us that when we are faithful and make ourselves available, He will fill in the gaps.

Even though the offer of meals to those in need began earlier in April, this really was an opening of doors, enabling us to grow relationships with the recipients. We didn't just address the core need of food and hunger, but we really were investing and showing God's love consistently. For some of our most vulnerable, the week-after-week visits by drivers with bags of bread and food were tangible expressions of God's care and love.

With this context established, the launching of Sow a Seed created a focal point whereby our church community could establish a fund that would enable us to meet specific and targeted needs of applicants. Fundraising for Sow a Seed has generated over \$46K. To date, 18 applications have been received. In assessing the needs of these applications, we have disbursed slightly over \$8K in costs to 9 of the applicants (averaging \$900/applicant). It is worth mentioning that every care is taken to ensure we maximise the impact of every recipient.

Some of the support that we continue to provide includes: payment of 1-month rent, council rates, groceries, home improvement, car registration (we had a car donated!), assistance and guidance to apply for Centrelink payments, being there for them at court hearings, taking applicants shopping for clothes, counsellor referencing to praying and delivering Bibles to bring love, hope and encouragement to those struggling, hurting, lonely, discouraged, depressed and abused.

Applications are still coming in and if God is stirring you to do something, please log on to our Clayton church website to get more information in terms of how you can partner with us.

There is a clear cross-over between the two programs for some families and international students who receive support across both. Where appropriate, meal delivery can be complemented by weekly fresh fruit and vegetables boxes, and the periodic delivery of fresh chicken courtesy of Ingham's.

Key similarities between the program include the assessment and relational approach to caring for our recipients. The adoption and formalisation of our needs

assessment methodology has ensured a professional standard of care, where Bill and the team place recipients at the heart of every interaction; representing God and His love. Our principles of love and care underpin the decision-making process, and the team constantly go above and beyond in showing our recipients the loving and generous nature of the God we serve.

Developing our team of 43 volunteers has been a discipleship journey in itself. Each volunteer can testify to the rewarding experience of hearing God move in the lives of our recipients. As we make ourselves available to being used by God, He has overwhelmingly impacted and made a lasting impression on us – the coordinators, as He has touched and moved the hearts of our recipients. As we connected in their homes, listening and praying with these members of our local community, God has come alive and transformed our hearts. For some of our drivers, bringing the kids along (after lockdown eased) was a powerful opportunity to impart to the next generation – this is how we can show and live out the love of God and make the Word of God come alive!

### **Love Thy Neighbour**

We are so pleased to hear so many encouraging stories as people took their step of faith to Love Thy Neighbour. The following is the list of what you told us YOU have done in loving your neighbours!

1. Cooked and shared a meal with neighbors
2. Washed buses and did gardening at Watch Disability Service
3. Packed hampers and gifts to residents and staff of Estia Health East Oakleigh
4. Initiated neighbourhood soccer at a Wantirna South neighbourhood
5. Hosted a Christmas street party to catch up with neighbors
6. Baked and packed cookies with hand written Christmas card
7. Distributed over 100 toys to children recipients of Free Meal Delivery and Sow A Seed donated from:
  - St Andrew's Clayton Presbyterian Church
  - Presbyterian Ladies College
8. Launched a campaign at work (Opal) where \$5,000 was raised. This was then used to bless our Free Meal Delivery and Sow A Seed recipients and delivered by our bumper 9-route delivery planned for Saturday 19 December.
  - Provide gift vouchers
  - Christmas hampers (hampers included #6 and #7 above)

Specific Sow A Seed needs also resulted in the following good donations:

- Two fridges
- Double Bed mattress and frame
- Second-hand car
- Two-seater sofa
- Two televisions
- Cooking items
- Washing machine
- Small dining table

**Embrace** partnered with the **Share the Dignity** “It’s in the Bag” campaign. We manage to fill 25 bags with the basic essentials, special gifts and collected 500 dollars to sponsor more bags for ladies across Australia doing it tough during Christmas eg homelessness, fleeing domestic violence. We also had opportunity to have conversation with our children about God’s love and dropped the bags off knowing it’s going to make a difference in someone life.

And then, on top of all that, we partnered with Rejoice Foundation to bless the disadvantaged people in Mim Ahafo Region, Ghana. The collected goods included clothes, toys, stationery, games, sports equipment’s, books and electronics. On Saturday 19 December, we gathered over 20 volunteers to pack a 40-foot container.

#### **Regeneration Church: Partner in Love Loud**

Love Thy Neighbour was also adopted and coordinated separately at Regeneration Church. Their equivalent of life-groups – known as Missional Communities – had great engagement. Such blessings included:

- Making Christmas hampers using products from local small businesses and gifting these hampers to Springvale police, fire and ambulance departments, as well to Dan Andrew’s local office in Noble Park
- Creating care packages with handwritten messages and baked goods to be distributed to students living in halls of residence at Monash
- Inviting local neighbors to participate in a picnic
- Hosting a Christmas Party for local South Asian community as part of our church’s FOSA program (Friends of South Asia)
- Sending confectionery and biscuits to a local age care home to thank the nurses for all their effort during COVID.
- Sending a Christmas hamper, blessings and encouragement to a neighbor who had recently suffered a heart attack.

- Inviting contacts from their prayer list to their MC breakup and Christmas party
- Hosting a Christmas party for local, non-Christian Chinese students

The impact of Love Thy Neighbour / Love Loud spread beyond Regeneration Church - parents were so impressed that they decided that they would participate by blessing their own local community in Bairnsdale! They have since blessed a number of small-businesses that were struggling from both the impact of COVID-19 and the January bush-fires.

#### **General Testimonies and Impact**

The video testimonies shared during Christmas are a mere sampling of the greater collection of stories – all testifying to God’s assurance and deliverance. As believers, we may not realise the significance of our giving – whether it is in monetary form, or as donated goods. For those of us who have had the privilege of visiting and connecting with our recipients, it has been a true honour bestowed from God to see and hear first-hand the magnitude of gratitude.

To see the joy in the faces, to hear their excitement. to be with someone who has, up to that point felt loneliness and isolation and now being accepted and loved by a whole community of faith. And even greater yet – to be able to share simply that we bring this love of God to our recipients – with NO strings attached – these moments are transformational, and indeed life-saving.

So, to the church family – as most of us have had to endure two extended lockdown periods, being at home – take heart and be encouraged. Our ability as a church family to continue spreading the Gospel, to bringing in new believers, to making a difference in the lives of people who really need to know and experience our loving God – this Great Commission – has continued forward through all this work of your Local Vision team and Love Loud.

We started out with the intention to simply support and to offer a helping hand during this time of pandemic. To date, we have reinforced and strengthen the faith of several families facing crisis. We have saved at least two lives – offering a tangible alternative to situations involving potential suicide. **We are well on the way to seeing salvation in new believers coming to know to Christ. Praise God!**



## Story of Change

The COVID-19 outbreak has caused a massive stress to everyone globally. A lot of people have lost jobs and I am one of them. As the single income earner for the family and a single mother, I am emotionally impacted and drained. I felt no power nor control over this pandemic. Since March 2020, due to the worsening economic environment caused by COVID-19, I have been stood down from work. At first, I did not think about it so much. I thought, this is a good opportunity to have a break from work for a while and at the back of my head, this pandemic is only temporary and it is only for a short period of time. At the time, my job keeper allowance covers my weekly expenses. Living a non-luxury and simple life makes us a bit easier to manage and easily get contented on what we have.

While waiting for work to resume, I was looking for other opportunities. Job keeper support did not last long and ended in September. Ever since, I have not found another job and this situation made me feel different from time to time. I lost interest in the few things I used to do, felt low self-esteem, easily irritated when some things went wrong. I could hardly sleep and sometimes awaken in early hours of the morning and hard to go back to sleep again. There were days, that I cannot really tell what I feel. Sometimes I felt like vomiting. I felt disoriented. I guess anxiety or stress had taken over me. To combat this feeling or experiences, I try to be active and keep myself busy as much as possible. I exercised, ate healthy foods and tried to connect with people.

Then came a time when I started to receive phone calls from members of Clayton Church – these calls boosted my morale and strengthened me spiritually. PRAISE GOD! This has made me feel that there are people who are concerned of me and that I am comforted. The phone calls from church members have always come in God's perfect timing when I needed someone to talk to. Just knowing that someone was listening to me and praying for me and my son – made me feel comforted. In those times when I was so down, hurt by the situation because I have no job for months, with an ill family member, lost family friends, God used these people from church to give me encouragement and support me when I needed it most. I was able to overcome my bad emotions every time I remembered an encouragement, they had shared with me: "God will not give you more than you can handle. God is the giver of life and the source of love and blessings". So, I continue to live with my faith in God. Do what I can and leave the rest to Him.

My situation led me to apply for Job Seeker. From what I heard, Centrelink would require me to enter into a mutual agreement - I have to sign up for a plan, look for a job, do reporting, etc... These requirements were all new to me as I've never been on welfare payment. But then, I have no choice, I have a mouth to feed. So, no matter what I needed to do, as long as there was temporary assistance, I would go. So, by God's grace, my application was approved and I was given a health care card. This helps us with our day-to-day expenses. Though a small amount of money, it is of help. And since Job Seeker is not that much, I have reviewed all our household expenses. I reduced our car insurance, suspended and considered cancelling my life insurance and remove health insurance hospital cover just to reduce monthly obligations. Every day in my prayers, I asked for God's provision, security, that no one get sick and prayed for God's wisdom and guidance. I found myself learning to tighten our budget, become selective with the food/things we buy and even stopped buying unnecessary things or items in bulk. I made a choice to buy healthy food this time.

September came, and finding a job got harder and harder. For one job advertised, there were so many applicants - 35 or even more than 50 candidates! Job hunting during the COVID-19 pandemic is much more frustrating and demoralising. Recruitment processes are filled with lots of hoops - long hours interviewing with little to no feedback. I used job-finding channels and had been short-listed a few times, had interviews, even took an aptitude test. Up until now, I still have not secured a new job. As a sole parent, I really need to find work.

Then in September, Centrelink announced the reduction in Job Seeker payments. This news added on to my worries. How much more could I cut our budget and spending? Since this rate cut, I struggle to have 8-hours sleep. There were days where I would wake up at 2am/3am in the morning, having a lot of concerns like how long we would survive. But with God's compassion, I did not panic and never thought that God is punishing me. One thing I am thankful for during this pandemic time is that I have more time to pay attention to my kid's need at school and his health. Also, I have a much closer relationship with God, family and friends. I raised all my concerns and needs in my daily devotion. I hold on to the promises of God - that God is with me; I continue to believe that God is in control.

Indeed, I witnessed God's goodness, faithfulness and generous ways. God has provided me help even if I was not asking yet. I received a phone call from the Global and Ministry Systems Director of Clayton Church – Sheron Wong, checking on my situation and how I was impacted by COVID-19. Our conversation was great, and I felt the concern and care of the church family. Then she recommended that I apply to 'Sow a Seed'. At first I felt uncomfortable, not sure if I deserved to get assistance. Looking at the criteria, I realised I was eligible. I prayed and consulted close friends about this help and if I should go ahead or not. I'm not sure if it was my ego/pride taking over me or if it was because I'm not used to receiving help this way. God answered my prayer and He confirmed that 'Sow a Seed' is a blessing for me from Him.

When I was visited by Bill Pontikis – Care and Crisis Director from the Church, and offering me to pay for my council rate and car registration for the full year, I couldn't explain the joy I felt within me. I was so relieved because the blessings of God through Lord Jesus had come upon me. I am so grateful to be one of the recipients of Clayton Church "Sow a Seed" initiative. God has blessed me this way. The prayers, caring, support and encouragement I have received from everyone are truly God's blessings specially this time of pandemic.

Thank you to all of you who have been part of this. God bless you. This initiative of "Love Loud" is where I wanted to get involved with. I wish to join you and help you in fulfilling God's Great Commission in the future being a part of the body of Christ, as well as to be a true disciple of Christ who will share about Jesus and salvation through Him to everyone everywhere according to God's will and purpose.

I praise and thank God for these verses: Job 29:2 - "I long for the years gone by when God took care of me." Lamentations 3:25 - "The Lord is good to those whose hope is in Him, to the one who seeks Him." 1 Peter 5:7 - "I will give all my worries and cares to God whom I know cares about me." These scriptures have given me spiritual strength and make my faith to God deeper and deeper each day.

God is so good and He continues to take care of me and my family. To God be the glory.  
Thank you

**Sow A Seed Recipient**







### **Acknowledgements**

So, we thank ALL our dedicated volunteers who have answered His calling in 2020 during these desperate times – you are all Saints who represented Jesus in this harvest field. The honour role is indeed representative of God’s Kingdom here in Melbourne, and includes Regeneration Church, Faith Christian Church, Kingston City Church plus even some of Jien members and Café Care – listed in order of date joining:

Gary Ablett Senior, Bennie Gow, Solomon Gajjala, Sujaya Pabbathi, Darren Tan, Camille Santos, Wilson Chong, Corinne Lau, Ray Cunliffe, Andrew Ah Sang, Wendy Ah Sang, Michel Viney, Monique Viney, Abby Xu, Steven Jacob, Sabitha Jacob, Joselito Santos, Leilanie Santos, Nathan Ablett, Charlie Phu, Andrew Coward, Rob Hickingbotham, Sarah Hickingbotham, Moshe Jasper, Feba Thomas, Robin Benjamin, Mary Gajjala, Marcos Wakefield, Andrew Gan, Ben Oommen, Eric Gajjala, Dani Lisbon, Bethany Ah Sang, Mario Pavlou, Steven Papadopoulos, Thomas Cazaly, Shamilla Thiruganaselvam, Lawrence Nadarajah, Ps Kyle Schroder, Cecylia Kee and David Tay.

We also acknowledge the service of Barbara Pontikis, Grace Baulch and Nic Lee who have tirelessly ensure the weekly continuity of coordination across both the Free Meal Delivery and Sow a Seed programs. We also thank Ps Greg and Shamilla for their leadership and oversight of Love Loud, in working with Bill and this team.







# GLOBAL CHURCH

REPORT



*by Sheron Wong,  
Global and Ministry Systems Director*

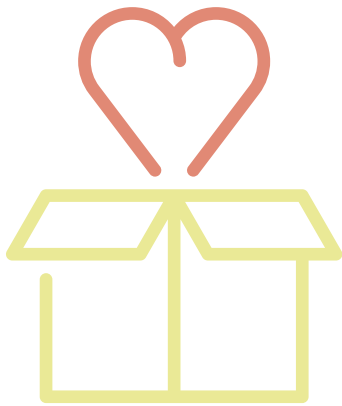


Despite the lack of international travel in 2020, we still saw some incredible things happen in the Global Mission space through our Global Workers and Partners this year. Some of the key highlights include sending a short-term team of four to Japan at the end of 2019, and our official partnership with Simon and Megumi Crittle as we commissioned them as Global Workers back in February 2020. We also finished up our partnership with A and A Ministry Partners as we received the wonderful news that the DuAn Village group whom we've been supporting through Alfred and Alsie Ng had become independent and a self-sustaining church had now been established – Praise God!

Back in Melbourne, we had two new members, Voon Yee Lee and Levi Truong join the Global Team, and with the introduction of new External Conduct Standards by the ACNC, we had extra hands to help set our church up for better and more effective Global Mission involvement in the years to come.

As you read the stories and reports from our Global Workers, may you be encouraged to continue praying and investing in God's Global Mission work!





**\$13,755**

**raised**

for Global Workers at  
Christmas in 2019 and 2020



**11**

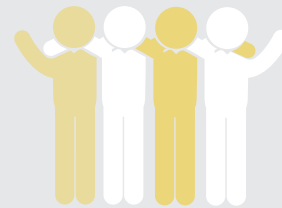
**Global Workers**

**3**

**Global Partners**

**2**

**new members**  
joined the Global team



**2**

**people went on a Short-Term Mission trip**  
First timers!

**1**

**Short-Term Mission trip to Japan**





## Story of Change

Listening to our pastors always talk about mission trips, I always really wanted to go. But like many others, even though I had a heart to go, I always found the timing never worked out. I saw the needs of the sick and the poor and I always wondered if I could emotionally or mentally handle it.

In 2018, I did the Kairos Mission course through church, and it stirred up my passion for missions more than ever. An opportunity to go to Japan at the end of 2019 soon came up, and by now I had been praying for over 5 years for God to send me. I asked God to confirm and tell me that I should apply for this trip and God gave me three signs through different people all mentioning the word 'Japan' in conversation to me on the same day.

When we arrived, Japan was a beautiful place, but I could tangibly feel the oppression in the air. It broke my heart that everywhere I looked, people were worshipping everything around them – even the trees – when they could simply look up to the sky and call on His name. Tokyo had everything – technology, power, but as Silent Night and Holy Night played in the shops at Christmas, it had no meaning because the people didn't know Jesus. God was moving me to see that His heart breaks for these people and he asked me 'so what are you going to do about it?'

Through this very first mission trip, I learnt the urgency of sharing the gospel. I understood God's heart and His mission. This called was for everybody and it is the purpose of our life here on earth. God is only saying one thing – to go and share the good news. So even back in Australia now, I am planting seeds and faithfully sharing with every God-given opportunity, because God is putting people in my path every day and every meeting point is an opportunity to share the good news.

In Japan, I had to learn how to be more attentive to the Holy Spirit, and to hear what God had already planned for us that day. So even when I don't know how to share now, I realised that God will give me the words and align the opportunities, and all I have to do is be obedient to the Holy Spirit's stirring.

**Kay Anandasivam**





## Cecilia Au

*Ministry with international students at  
Monash University, with Power to Change*

Semester 1 was a steep learning curve as we moved our ministry online following the closure of the university campus. Weekly Zoom discipleships and being intentional in caring well for our students was our team's focus. As a result, our Christian students grew more as disciples of Jesus and even stepped up as leaders in our movement.

Semester 2 brought a bigger student leader team as well as a better understanding of our new normal. This enabled us to experiment more with online outreach. Some of the ideas that came out of this semester were Houses of Peace (small group communities) and Bubble Tea Socials that reached a broader audience than ever before.

### Key Metrics

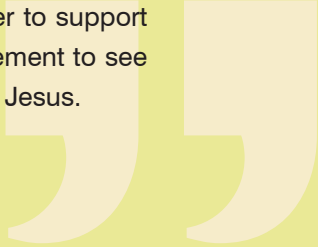
- Number of missionaries: 3
- Number of volunteers: 2
- Total number of student leaders: 5
- Number of new student leaders: 3
- Approaches to initiate a spiritual conversation: 103
- Spiritual conversations (e.g. sharing testimonies, etc): 63
- Gospel presentations: 17
- Evangelistic contacts (i.e. did a Discovery Bible Study with us): 15
- Salvation decisions: 2
- House of Peace attendees: 27 (about 35% are non-Christians)
- Number of online outreach events: 6
- Number of Instagram campaigns: 2



## Story of Change

This year, we experimented with Instagram campaigns. Through this, I met a Vietnamese student named Mandy. At our first online follow-up, Mandy was really touched when I shared the gospel with her and prayed with her. She said nobody had ever prayed for her before nor explained about Jesus in this way. From this, I invited her to attend our online House of Peace, where she was able to meet other international students and hear more about Jesus as we ate played games, had dinner together and discussed the Bible.

Mandy always had a lot of questions to ask about the Bible stories we read, so I invited her to do a Discovery Bible Study with me during the week in order to look at the gospel in more detail. Eventually, Mandy decided to put her faith in Jesus as her Saviour and Lord. At that time, we had never met in person, even though we were hanging out online at least 2-3 times a week. When lockdown finally ended, one of the first people I met up with was Mandy, and I took her to buy her first Bible. Since Mandy was already part of the House of Peace community, many of the other Christian students gathered around her to support her in her newfound relationship with Jesus. It has been such an encouragement to see Mandy become a part of our community and to grow in her understanding of Jesus.







# Rosemary and Derek Snibson

*Urban Indigenous Ministry in Darwin with CMS*

The aim is to find and disciple Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Darwin who are open to grow in faith and be equipped, encouraged and resourced for ministry. Darwin has a diverse range of cultures and we have focused on relationships with people from all over the Territory who arrive for medical care, at Anglicare Transitional Housing, CAAPS Christian Ministries Darwin and a more stable community called Bagot. The priority is discerning those open to grow in faith and to use their gifts in ministry and leadership. We are constantly learning with them.



## Story of Change

For months we had tried to find a young mother we visited in hospital, a relation of Aboriginal friends. One day we found a senior man sitting behind the wire mesh enclosing the veranda of this young mother's small house in Bagot. He was her father.

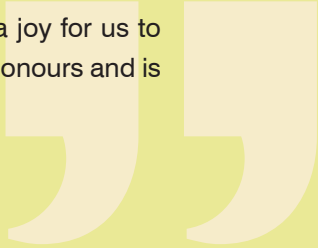
Suddenly we recalled meeting this man in the hospital corridor. He works as an interpreter, with many Aboriginal languages from family links in many parts of the Territory, and it was a joy to re-connect.

When we mentioned staying in Ngukurr where he had lived, families we knew, and our involvement in his community including a Bible study, his eyes lit up. He went inside to get a well underlined Good News Bible and told us, 'I read it and pray every day'.

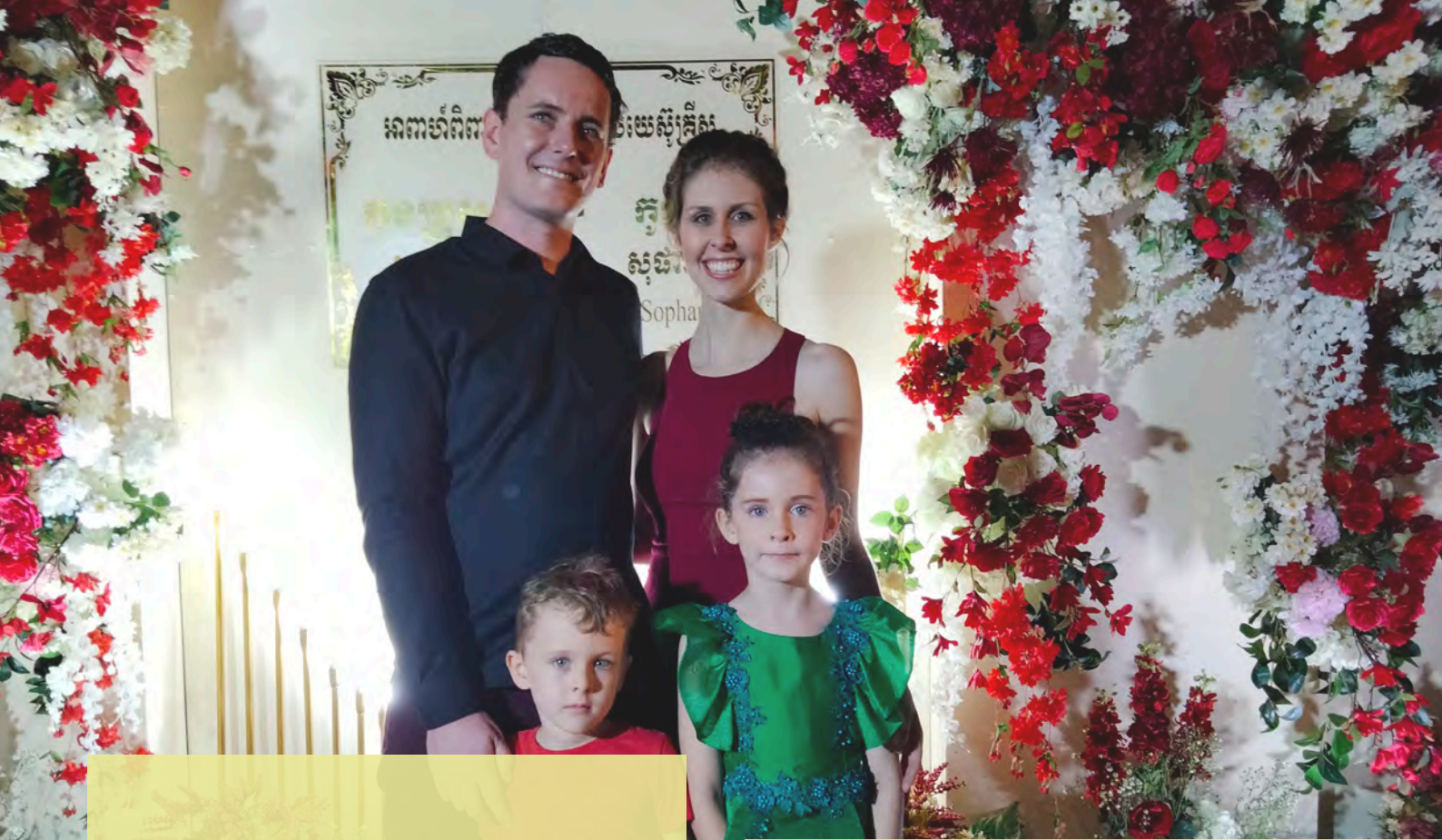
We shared the vision of encouraging believers to come together to encourage each other to grow with Jesus in God's family, and he instantly grasped the vision. He joined us the following Sunday for 'Fellowship' and the men's Bible group.

A neighbour of similar age two doors up, also started coming on Sunday nights and Wednesdays. He too had been quietly praying and reading his Bible at home. After early 'mission days' in his community, he too had not connected to relevant fellowship in Darwin that was accessible.

Both of these men wanted prayer to be good mentors to guide their families and communities – a light and example amidst many pressures. And now the four of us meet weekly. The two of them have also started meeting on their own, and it is a joy for us to see how God has led us to such people of faith, the long-planted seeds He honours and is watering, the embers He is fanning into flame.







# Jono and Steph Bailey

*Brave Ministry, Cambodia*

We joined Brave Ministry towards the end of 2019. Since joining the team our key focus has been starting and coordinating the Brave Home. The heart of Brave Home is to see men find hope in Jesus and to see them bring that hope to others.

Brave Home exists to help reintegrate men by providing a loving and supportive Christian environment. Our goal is to see them build their lives in God, develop in their work and study and to live free and whole into the future. We aim to connect with men who are in a difficult situation and who don't have supportive networks.

Also, we have held weekly Bible studies with neighbours interested in Jesus and we have been able to support and be alongside them through the difficult times and the good times. Our two young children are home-schooled and daily they play with the neighbourhood children and are learning more Khmer just like we are.

## Key Metrics:

- Men we helped to join a 1-year Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation: 2
- Men who joined our Brave Home after rehabilitation: 3
- Bible studies and worship each week: 4
- Men baptised: 2
- New Volunteers at the Brave Home: 3
- Number of Outreaches: 20+
- Salvations in the province: 25+
- Salvation of neighbours: 2
- Neighbours open and learning about Jesus and the Bible: 4
- Shared cups of tea with others: 1000+
- Intercession prayer laps around the house: 110+
- Advice sought from mentors: 52 +
- Dentist and doctors' visits for those in need: 25+



## Stories of Change

My name is Visoth, I live at the Brave Home and I want to share some of my story. When I was young I had a very difficult life. I couldn't go to school, I had no happiness in my family, I collected recyclables and begged for money. I used to walk along the road and sleep anywhere. It was terrible. I sniffed glue then also.

After that I came to live at Teen Challenge (a Christian drug and alcohol rehabilitation centre). I stayed there for 9 years because I had nowhere else to go. There I started to study at school and also learn about Jesus. In my last year there I prayed for an opportunity to develop my life more in Jesus. That year I met Jono who told me about Brave Home and I was so happy.

At Brave Home I have received love and support. I have more opportunities for my studies, to serve in ministry, to learn more about following Jesus and to teach others also. Now I have more confidence and hope for my future with God. I am so grateful for Brave Home and the leaders here. Thank you.

**Visoth**



My name is Phoeun. I used to be addicted to drugs and alcohol. Before my life was a mess and I didn't know what to do. I was hopeless, I had no work, I was always bored and twice I tried to kill myself.

One time when I was drunk and feeling worthless I decided to cut off my own thumb with a big knife. At that time my older brother helped me go to hospital to treat my wound then after he took me to Teen Challenge. I started to have hope. I didn't know where I was going to go or what I was going to do when I was meant to finish my 1 year stay but when I found out I had the opportunity to go join Brave Home in Phnom Penh I was excited.

Since I have been at Brave Home I have started to learn how to fix motorbikes and I am so blessed to have a boss that encourages me in my work. I have hope because in my future I think that I will have a motorbike fixing business, my own family and I will have lots of love to share with others. I am thankful that I have hope and I have another chance at life.

**Phoeun**



# Sakal and Ange An

*National Team Leadership, Cambodia  
Campus Crusade for Christ, Cambodia*

We would like to thank you for your generous giving and faithful prayers to help people grow in their Christian faith in Cambodia. With travel restrictions and the closure of schools from March 2020, our staff quickly learned and adapted to a hybrid ministry of online and small group

gatherings. University students shared the gospel through social media messaging apps on their smart phones. Rural house church members continued to visit neighbours to share the gospel and run Bible studies in homes. Teachers met in online video meeting platforms from their homes to encourage and pray together.

We are in the process of re-launching our professional workers ministry. On top of overseeing these actions, our staff translated and contextualised evangelism and discipleship softcopy materials for online distribution. Staff remained prayerfully committed and faithful to their calling to help fulfil the Great Commission in Cambodia.

Our personal ministry priorities were spiritual, team, and strategic leadership; also fund and staff development. After 11 years, Sakal stepped out of campus leadership (SLM) and into professional workers (LeaderImpact). In our role, we are excited to care for and collaborate more effectively across teams to help our organisation fulfil the Great Commission in Cambodia. We are hopeful that God will expand and multiple His Kingdom work in 2021.

Thank you for your faithful prayer and generous support to help us bring the gospel to the people in Cambodia.

## **Key Metrics:**

### **SAKAL**

- 35 weekly online sermons preached by Sakal
- 2 online Bible college subjects completed by Sakal
- 38,000 views, 1773 likes and 67 new connections through facebook outreach campaign
- 10 collaborative national leadership team meetings facilitated by Sakal
- 1 leadership team development course completed as a team
- 8 disciples across 3 campuses



## ANGE

- 20 accountability meetings with female staff
- 2 online Bible college subjects audited by Ange
- 27 English Bible studies for staff led by Ange
- 1 Mental Health Awareness and Counselling staff seminar conducted by Ange

## Stories of Change

### His Power That Started A House Church

Lyheng who used to disown his Christian son, Theara, became seriously ill and had been paralysed both his arms and legs since 2017. Traditional witchcraft and western medicine treatments both in and outside of Cambodia could not help him. Theara invited one of our church planting staff and house church members to his home to pray for his father, Lyheng. In that moment of prayer, Lyheng experienced God's healing power moving through his arms and legs. They removed and destroyed all the spiritual altars in the house. A month later, a house church of 11 people started in Lyheng's house led by Theara.



### Stepping Into The Online Space

Sokea, graduate intern, found her new disciple, Chanrath, through Facebook by asking for Christian contacts after sharing the gospel to other students. Chanrath agrees to meet. As many students relocated from the provinces, she is new to Phnom Penh and is happy to find a Christian friend. After two months, they share the gospel together on campus and study follow up lessons. Since joining as a Key Volunteer, Chanrath is excitedly seeing her classmates and family open their hearts to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In November, she joined the campus ministry staff to train over 60 church members in digital evangelism and discipleship.



## Simon and Janet

*Professionals working in China*

We have been blessed to be able to use our professions as Intensive Care Nurses to work as 'Foreign Experts' in a hospital in a western province of China. Our daughters have also been fortunate to enrol in local schools and be educated in the Chinese language. In this way we are part of the local community, investing and building relationship with those around us and we live alongside and 'do life' with people! We live in an area with both Han Chinese and ethnic minorities (mainly Tibetan and Hui Muslims) as well as other foreigners.

### **Key Metrics:**

- Family of four: Simon and Janet, Charlotte (7 years), Sarah (4 years)
- Australian with British and Malaysian backgrounds.
- Simon and Janet: Intensive Care Nurse Specialists by profession
- Joined Clayton C of C in 2010 (Members a few months later)
- Went to China as a family in mid 2017: have been there since!
- Last visited Melbourne: February- March 2020





## Story of Change

Like many of you through 2020, the concept of 'change' has actually been more of an internal one as we've allowed him to work through us as a family. It's been more in attitudes, expectations and perspectives on what we are doing here.

Coming back to China after a short trip back to Melbourne in February/March was a step of faith. When we came out of China in January, the virus situation was escalating but became more serious while we were out of country. We weren't sure if we could return and considered staying in Melbourne for a while but got a prompt to just go back and praise him as if we'd waited the border would have closed 10 days later. He knows our needs and we have learned to trust in him more as a result rather than be overwhelmed by circumstance.

We've also learned about ministry here to 'let go and let him'. Who he reaches and when is not for us to decide, we just have to be available and here and that includes being in the right frame of mind. Since coming back, I've learned to let go of pride, it's not about my status, job, achievements, it's only about obedience and following. We are just a mist that appears for a while and vanishes, doesn't have to be a perfect mist, just has to be there, but also be ready to move on when he says. Our aim as a family is just to continue to be available and be here in China until circumstances move us on. Our course we have burdens for individuals here and please pray that we will continue to be relational, allowing him to work in their lives. However, most of all the change has been an increasing trust in him and less worry about what this all means.

We don't know the next time we can be back in Australia, but we miss you all and thank you for all your continued support in keeping us here. Blessings.





# Simon and Megumi Crittle

*Japanese Ministry*

What does Diaspora Returnee Ministry mean? In our case, it means reaching out to Japanese expatriate families (“Diaspora”) in Melbourne, plus follow-up when these families move back to Japan (“Returnees”), to link them with Christian contacts and churches there. With less than 1% of the population Christian, there’s a chronic shortage of families in Japanese churches. The Lord has given us a burden to connect with Japanese families as a whole unit, so each family can move towards Christ together.

Just as in Japan, English teaching, English practice opportunities, and genuine relationships are key to our ministry. Being part of Clayton Church of Christ adds a special element: we are able to link Japanese families with Clayton church families, so they can see how the gospel transforms everyday life. Striving to “show and tell” the gospel is especially important: the Japanese language does not have a native word for “God Most High”, and conversion to Christ comes at considerable social cost.

Furthermore, there are many dangerous cults in Japan, so Japanese people are usually wary of anything religious. Our location in Caulfield South places us near many Japanese families living temporarily in Australia on executive work postings or for post-graduate study.

As our ministry is Melbourne-based, the pandemic drastically affected our usual outreach program and activities. We responded by learning how to use online ministry tools, especially Zoom video meetings. A wonderful outcome was that returnees began joining our activities from Japan, including Tokyo, Yokohama, Nagoya, and Okayama. As a result, we are now strategizing for a hybrid ministry model (in-person + online) for 2021 and beyond. During 2020, we also used lockdown time to pursue further theological and language study, with Meg completing the Graduate Diploma of Divinity (MST).

**Key Metrics:**

- Several new online (Zoom/Skype) ministries
- Japanese Mothers English Class Online (3 volunteers assisting)
- Life Group for Japanese mothers
- Individual Bible discovery sessions for Japanese men

Important result: notable increase in participation by contacts who have returned to Japan. In December, 9 Japanese families joined a Clayton life-group Christmas celebration, boosting the total attendance to around 56 adults and children! (In fact, half the participants were Japanese.)



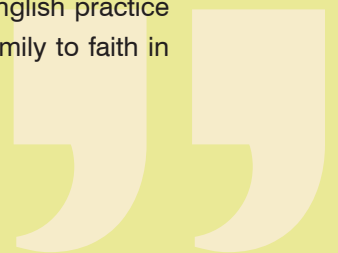
## Story of Change

When a senior Japanese medical professional and his family came to Melbourne for a year of post-doctoral research, his wife began attending our weekly English class for Japanese mothers at Clayton Church. Soon afterwards, we invited the whole family to a church social event, where we introduced them to various church members.

The family attended some life-group events, and came to Sunday church on a couple of occasions. After they returned to Japan, we kept in touch, and when we visited Tokyo in 2019, we took them to an international bilingual church near their apartment.

In early 2020, before the international flight restrictions, we arranged for a young family from Clayton church to meet with the Japanese family for a day together, as part of the Australian family's Japan trip. It was a vital chance for the Japanese family to spend time with a Christian family with children of a similar age. (And the Clayton family said it was "the highlight of their trip"!)

God has used all of these steps to bring the Japanese family to greater openness. The mother is now participating in Meg's online life group (via Zoom), and the husband has started Bible discovery sessions with Simon online, as part of Simon's "English practice plus Bible discovery" program. We pray that God will steadily lead this family to faith in Christ Jesus.





# PIONEERING CHURCH

REPORT



*by Pastor Chee*

After the preparation work done in 2019, we were set to take steps forward in our MCity disciple-making initiative and grow our first Cantonese service that was launched through our Chinese Campus in October 2019. However, given the COVID-19 impact, we had to put a pause on both initiatives and re-allocate our resources and priorities in the other existing ministries within the church.

2020 also confronted us to explore a new frontier - the online world. The online world wasn't just a digital tool, but an entirely new mission field. We saw how it enabled the Word of God to reach people and places beyond the four walls of Clayton. We saw snapshots of how the online world enabled us to have a greater reach for people to come to faith, people receiving pastoral care, people getting baptised overseas online and people connecting into community. It's not perfect, but there are benefits that the online world enables us to do that physical space is unable to. Our team had to take a steep learning curve to understand how to engage this mission field, and how to continue our disciple-making ministry in this space. Moving forward our key question is not about how to do hybrid church, but how do we build disciples who represents Jesus in a hybrid world.

In the meantime, please pray for the Lord's leading as 2021 unfolds, that God will provide us the right timing and renewed opportunities to reengage in our MCity Initiative, Cantonese Service or other pioneering ventures.



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