

newsletter

*hope mission centre*  
**WINTER** newsletter 2004



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# People Of Destiny

Rev. Samuel and Aileen Gunawan

**Exodus 12:11 “ This is how you are to eat it; with your cloak tucked into your belt, your sandals on your feet and your staff in your hand. Eat it in haste; it is the Passover.”**

When we become a Christian, one thing we need to have is readiness.

You are moving from a place of slavery and bondage to a place of freedom and destiny. Every child of God who has been redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God must realise that he or she is a person of Destiny. For the Israelites, their destiny was freedom from slavery in Egypt and now a people of destiny, once they had longed for rights and privileges, now they were people with a plan and purpose.

God wants you and I to come to be ready and fulfil a great destiny.

Just as the people of Israel had to eat the Passover Lamb with a certain physical posture, so we too must take the body and blood of Jesus Christ with a certain spiritual posture, being ready for your Destiny.

## 1. The Israelites first had to have their cloaks tucked into their belts.

You must have your cloak tucked into your belt. What we are talking is focus. This means that you must be ready to move without getting caught and held up by a little tree or thorn or something in the pathway that may grab to your cloak. This symbolises the focus you must have as a Christian. You do not let anything take you off your course. The Hebrews author

tells us, “Since then we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.” - Hebrews 12:1

We must be ready to run. Ephesians 6:14 “Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist.” If you want to be sure to fulfil your destiny in God, make sure you are free from the little things that try to tie you up in knots.

What are you focussed on? What captures your attention? Are you looking for God in your daily life or looking for other things of this world? As people of Destiny we must be focussed and our focus cannot be random thoughts about God but must have focussed thoughts on His Word!

Psalm 119:105 “His Word is a lamp unto our feet and a light unto our path.” If you want to know where you are going and how to get there, go to the Word.

The devil is very crafty. Sin begins in the mind. You sin without first thinking about sin. You cannot stop a bird from landing on your head, but you can stop it from building a nest. Focus on the Word keeps our mind away from the desires of the flesh.

## 2. The People were to eat the Passover “with sandals on their feet.”

There is something very significant here when someone living in this time period wanted to take a long journey through the desert places of those areas, shoes would

be carried to prevent them from wearing out. They were determined to finish the journey. Too many Christians are all too ready to give up. The amazing thing is this – God never gives up! God never gives up on you. God wants us to know that He will take care of our clothes, take care of our shoes because God is determined to get you to finish the race.

## 3. The Children of Israel were to have “your staff in your hand.”

The staff is representative in the Old Testament journeys as a “pilgrimage”. They were to be pilgrims with a promise. For us the staff in our hand means that if we want to be ready for our destiny, we must not hold tightly the things of the world. For a man in those times a staff came in pretty handy. You could lean upon the staff for strength, guide your flock with your staff, Moses performed miracles with his staff. David was a shepherd boy and when he went to fight Goliath, the Bible says he took five smooth stones, but many do not realise this, that in 1 Samuel 17:40, it reads, “Then he took his staff in his hand, chose five smooth stones from the stream, put them in the pouch of his shepherd’s bag and...”

All shepherds have staffs. Staffs usually represented a nomadic people who did not have a settle place to call their home. Abraham had a staff, Jacob had a staff. The same truth about a staff in the Old Testament applies to us in today’s world that we are not going anywhere without our keys!

The people of Israel were to hold their staff in their hand while they ate the

Passover lamb. They were to realise and change their thinking. They were moving from the realm of destitute to the realm of destiny. They were no more slaves, now they were sojourners. They were no more to be comfortable with their state in life; they were to move to a greater hope. It is with us, we are to be people of destiny in God and with that we must have about us a sense of uneasiness to the things around us. We are not the people of this world any longer, we are the people of God.

When you come to Christ, your address is changed. Where you once had a permanent residence in hell, you now have a mansion in Glory, and someday you are going to live there forever, but until then, there should be a sense of uneasiness in life that this world is not my home and has nothing for me.

We are a people of destiny. We are a people with a purpose. God has a plan in store for you when you come to Christ.

God’s blessings,  
Rev. Samuel & Aileen Gunawan





## Women of Hope

Grace Tong

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Lord for all that He has provided for the Women of Hope and also for the love, commitment and generosity of all the ladies who have been such a blessing and encouragement.

### Thanking Him in All Things

Giving thanks to God is an expression of appreciation and gratitude, acknowledging all that He has done, all that He is doing and all that He will do in the future. It is marvellous that we can entrust our life into His hands because He is in control of all things. He knows the demands and pressures we face and desires for us to lift them to Him and trust in Him. In Jeremiah 29:11, God declares: “For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

The will of God is for His people to “give thanks in all circumstances” (1 Thessalonians 5:18). As we seek to apply this principle in our life, we will receive tremendous blessing.

One of the many lessons that I have learnt is that giving thanks to the Lord helps me to focus on His love and goodness. It also helps me to be contented as all my needs are met each day.

As women, we have a vital role in attending to household chores. Sometimes, these duties may seem unending or they can be demanding when we are pressed for time.

However, I have learnt that I can enjoy accomplishing these tasks because I know that God is the provider and source of everything.

I am thankful for: -

The alarm that wakes me early in the morning because it means that I am alive and ready to start a new day.

The basketload of laundry and ironing to be done because it means I have clothes to wear.

The carpet that needs vacuuming, the windows that need cleaning and the lawn that needs mowing because it means that I have a home to live in.

The dishes that need washing because it means that I have food to eat.

And finally...

My aching muscles at the end of the day because it means I have the energy and capability to complete my household chores day after day.

May God bless you in all that you have to accomplish.



## Men of Hope

William Tong

### Guaranteed Investment

“Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.” (Luke 6:38)

The greatest investment one can make is to invest in the Kingdom of God. Whatever we give whether it is our time, finance, hospitality, help or service, God multiplies and returns to us in a greater portion to what we have given.

He is faithful and His promises are irrevocable. As you seek to apply this principle of “GIVING”, God will bless you. “And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.” (2 Corinthians 9:8)

Some years ago, I was challenged in the giving of my finance (Tithes) when I read what Jesus said in Matthew 22:21 “Give to Caesar what is Caesar’s and to God what is God’s.” I praise God for His conviction and I thank Him for all the blessings that He has poured into my life, it is beyond what I could comprehend.

I pray that you will take the challenge of investing in the Kingdom of God and you will obtain the incomparable and glorious return.

May God bless you.

Men of Hope meets every 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday of each month.

## Testimonies

### Spiritual Promotion

The period between the end of April and May for myself could be best summed up in one word 'hectic' with commitments too numerous to count with 10 fingers or even including my 10 toes! I found myself with very little time to meet my ever-increasing workload at work, family, personal and ministry. Physically I was exhausted, and sometimes even thinking about my commitments frightened me. But despite my ever-shrinking time, I remained committed to Jesus and continually placed Him first and foremost in my life. I was out Mondays for Prayer, Wednesdays for Home Cell and Sundays for Church and some Fridays for Worship rehearsals. This really left with Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday to fulfil all my other commitments, and if time permits - sleep.

It was tough; I struggled with balancing my time and found it a real challenge to do so. Additionally over this time, I was also given the privilege to teach at Home Cells and what an honour it is, sharing the Word of God with His people. However this meant more time lost

to prepare for the teaching. So as the weeks went by, I was beginning to feel increasingly tired. One night during prayer, Jesus spoke to me through my time of worship. I felt His presence totally consumed all that I felt and thought. He told me to trust in Him and to know that whatever I was going through is in-line with His plan for my life. And surely as I did, I was blessed with time to fulfil not one but all of my commitments. He also continually poured down His beautiful blessings in many other areas of my life. On top of this, the Lord opened the doors of opportunity once again as I was offered an awesome job that suited my interests and the best part of it is that He placed it on my lap and said, "Here you go" without me having to seek for it. The Lord is good, and I am a testimony to the fact that the more you trust in Him the greater the rewards. In Hebrews 12:1 it says, "let us run the race with perseverance", do not give up and above all, trust in Him.

God bless,  
Andrew Tang

### God Is Good

I praise God for everything I have in my life because I know that my heavenly father gives them all to me. As some of you may know I recently went for my Provisional Drivers Licence, which I failed on my first attempt. I did the first test with much reliance on my own will, knowledge and strength. And no matter how well I did on that day, I still failed. My percentage was below 90%. So I booked again for another test date, which was two weeks later on a Tuesday. The day before the test, I was at the Monday Night Prayer. I asked the Pastors to pray for me for the driving test. After when the Pastors have prayed for me, I felt the nervousness in me just went away. The next day, I went for my test and praise God I passed! I know that it is because of God and all your prayers that I could receive this blessing.

I also thank God that we are so privileged to be able to pray and communicate with Him. One person's prayer is awesome and corporate prayer is even mightier. Praise God.

God bless,  
Kim Seng

### Our Miraculous Father

I wrote a testimony in the Hope Church Summer 2003/04 Newsletter early on this year after I had made a decision to place my hope and trust in the Lord during a difficult time in my life. It was a very challenging period where I felt my strength being pulled in all directions. I had commitments to areas of ministry within Hope Church, personal commitments to family and friends, as well as a massive workload at University. On top of this, the problems and worries of those close to me burdened me and drained me of whatever strength I had left. Each commitment demanded time, energy and effort and I began to feel consumed and overwhelmed by the work and the responsibilities placed upon me.

It was the Lord's sweet presence, the peace I found in Him, and His gentle beckoning that reminded me to concentrate my focus on Him. I was obedient and I tried. Even though the work that confronted me was still present, I placed my focus on God and gave Him everything. The release was indescribable – I felt buoyant, as though a huge weight had been lifted off me; the pressure that had previously suffocated me had been eradicated and I could finally breathe.

Five months down the track, as I have placed my commitments in His hands and allowed Him to be in control of my life, God has worked His power in ways I have never experienced! It has been an exciting time where God has lifted me up to a new level of intimacy with Him, strengthening and refining my faith and perseverance. God continually brings about this amazing spiritual refreshment which cultivates new physical and mental strength enabling me to do my work. God has opened new doors for me to serve Him in ministry, relationships with my family and all those around me have flourished in God's hands, and His peace is still ever present in my life, guarding my heart and my mind. On top of all this, God has also poured out His blessings in my studies, providing me with amazing grades that ranked me in the top 15 percentile of my course and in turn allowing me to undertake an Honours Degree at University this year. I also received an invitation to join the University of Sydney's Chapter of the Golden Key International Honours Society; which provides recognition of academic achievement, scholarship opportunities, and international networking opportunities!

The goodness of God and the work He has accomplished in my life has left me in complete awe. His amazing grace and favour upon my life, in my ministry, my relationships

and my studies is something I still cannot comprehend. In man's eyes, it would seem like some sort of nervous breakdown would be the resultant outcome. Yet God worked a miracle in my life, during a time of vulnerability, in my weakness, His power and strength were manifested!

"But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong." - 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

I encourage all of you who are facing a difficult time where things seem despondent, nothing is working the way you wanted it to and you feel like your strength is about to give up on you; to turn your eyes upon Jesus. When your gaze is fixed on Him, things look a lot different. Look into His eyes and you will find His love that wants to bless you, His strength that wants to rejuvenate you, and His power that wants to do a miracle... in you.

God Bless,  
Stephanie Lim

## 50 First Dates

I recently went to see the romantic comedy "50 First Dates", which tells the story of a girl who suffers from a rare disorder that erases her short-term memory every morning she wakes up. She only remembers life before the accident that caused this ailment so her family and friends go to extreme measures to make her believe that every day is the day of her accident. However, all this changes when Henry enters her life and falls in love with her. Due to her condition, he has to make her fall in love with him every single day.

This is when I fell in love ... with Jesus!

Isn't it wonderful that God can use almost anything to reveal truths about Himself? After watching this movie, I began to ponder, "Awww, that was a really sweet movie, imagine someone making me fall in love with them every single day - I wonder if I'll meet someone like that." And then it dawned on me - I already have!

Every morning, Jesus never fails to make me fall in love with Him. He woos me with the sunshine, serenades me with chirping birds, and speaks sweetly to me as I read His Word. Every day is filled with new mercies and grace, fresh anointing and blessings. He transforms my mundane and

ritualistic living into a life of abundance in His love and joy, full of unexpected miracles, signs and wonders. He also shows me love through people - family and friends who always show me love and are a source of strength and encouragement, people who give me a sense of belonging in God's family.

I just want to thank the Lord for His amazing love because that is the epitome of who He is and the motivation for all He has done. I want to praise Him because although I am so undeserving of this love He gives me, I can rest assured that His mercies are new every morning and great is His faithfulness.

This same love He has shown me, He is giving to you as well. However, it requires us to acknowledge Him and also the things He has done. Once we realise this, there is nothing else that we can do but to fall in love.

Karen Tong

## Joy In The Lord

After my father passed away in October last year, things really started to change for me. I had to get use to the fact that he was gone and that he will never come back. For the first couple of months, things were good. I was spiritually

high for I knew God would take care of my family and I had so much trust in Him as our relationship was so strong. I guessed the devil did not like the fact that I was rejoicing because my earthly father is now with my heavenly Father. Starting from February this year, my joy in the Lord just disappeared.

I felt dry, useless, abandoned and empty, and I started to really miss my dad. The devil really started to play with my mind. All my life, I have always relied on my parents, and now I can only rely on my mum (don't get me wrong, I love my mum). I felt that something was missing. I would feed myself spiritually by going to church, prayer meeting, home cell, dot com, etc...but I would never feel full. There was still something missing in my life and I really had to find out what it was. So I took a day off from work to really explore what my problem was and also to give me a chance to spend intimate time with the Lord. God really ministered to me. He made me look at my life and the things that were hindering me from worshipping Him. Then I realised that my joy was gone because I had not trusted Him enough. I have considered myself to be a very joyful person; laughing on the outside but spiritually, it wasn't the case. I was at the point of giving up. So I sat myself down and asked God to refresh me. I really took a hard look

at what God has blessed me with. He has blessed me so much and I did not even realise it because I was too preoccupied with my own selfish desire and self-pity. The same night was Monday Night Prayer and God really gave me a confirmation that night as He spoke to Pastor Aileen to ask me to step forward for prayer. I was amazed because God knew what I was going through. He showed me that even though I felt He was so far away, He is always there!! At that moment, I felt the load of burden just got lifted off my shoulders. I felt so free and so alive.

Yes sometimes we feel dry, abandoned, empty and useless, but that is also a sign that victory will come when we place our total trust in the Lord. The devil does not like it when we are joyful and happy and he tries to bring us down. But if we do not shift our focus from the Lord and continue to remain in Him despite the problems we are facing, we will see VICTORY my friend, VICTORY!!! Never lose that JOY in the Lord, and always remember that He is with you and waiting for you to call on His name. GOD BLESS

Love

Your sister in Christ  
Chanlar Yean

## God Is Forever Faithful

God is forever faithful! I started going to Hope Church as a weekly habit at the beginning of 2003. The reason for this is because I thought life was boring for me and at that time, I just needed to live a different lifestyle.

The year 2003 was probably the worst year of the twenty-two years I have lived. I did not see hope and did not have the confidence in almost everything I was doing. Until the beginning of this year, things that I was hoping to achieve were obviously impossible, and that was the moment I realised that I had no other option but to seek God and surrender all to Him because it was just totally out of my control.

The moment I decided to surrender my life to God, my life has changed dramatically. On the 29<sup>th</sup> February 2004 is the day that I will never forget. It was the day just before University started. I was deeply overwhelmed with fear of failure and regret and did not have much confidence with my University studies. To me, studying is a very difficult thing because I have never like studying in the past and did not achieve much to give me the confidence to continue. I stopped doing my daily devotions in the beginning of February and thought to myself that I would get back to it beginning of March. As I was packing my school bag for

University that night, I took the devotional booklet out and started reading the devotion for the following day, which was the first day of University. The title for that day's devotion was "Strength for today." The sentence that touched me deeply from that devotion was, "Lord, I go forth in your strength alone" and the meditation bible verse for that day was Philippians 4:8-13 - "Finally, brothers, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable--if anything is excellent or praiseworthy--think about such things. <sup>9</sup>Whatever you have learned or received or heard from me, or seen in me--put it into practice. And the God of peace will be with you. <sup>10</sup>I rejoice greatly in the Lord that at last you have renewed your concern for me. Indeed, you have been concerned, but you had no opportunity to show it. <sup>11</sup>I am not saying this because I am in need, for I have learned to be content whatever the circumstances. <sup>12</sup>I know what it is to be in need and I know what it is to have plenty. I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. <sup>13</sup>I can do everything through him who gives me strength."

It felt like God was so real as if He was speaking to me directly. God gave me so much hope and gave me a new perspective in life and

from that moment, I decided to be faithful to Him because He was the one who got me out of the pit. He had also prepared me to live a life dependant on Him.

God's love is unconditional! I knew I would not be faithful and would not seek Him if I did not need His help. Last year, Church life for me was an on and off thing. Those times when I had backslidden with my Christian walk, God would use few people to bring me back to the right track. Since I was still very much in control of my life at that point in time, I would choose to live with my own understanding and strength to overcome difficulties but was unsuccessful. But God has never abandoned me even when I placed Him secondary in my life. He has never given up on me considering the things I used to do that were totally against Him but He continues to love me even when I was being unfaithful to Him.

My life is now full of joy, which is indescribable. Fear that was controlling my life before has no power over me anymore. In the past, I had never known what my purpose in life was and had often wondered why I existed. But now, God has put so much hope in me and there is so much to look forward to in life. When I think about the time that I did not think much of God, my life truly has no meaning. A lot of people say, "Money cannot buy happiness",

which I did not believe it was true initially because I believed money could make you happy instantly. When my life has fallen apart, I realised money can only bring temporary happiness. Ever since I was touched and enabled by God to seek Him more, I realised living for God and His purpose is the only thing that can bring eternal joy. The joy and hope that I am experiencing now is indescribable. One thing I truly believe is that I will never want to walk away from God again because I cannot live without Him and that life would be a disaster without God. When I was a non-Christian, I used to believe I just need to change my perspective and I will have the life I want. But without God, all the goodness is only temporary. We will never experience real joy without having a relationship with God and Jesus.

Mary Lee

### Great Assurance In Christ

In a time where we, Year 12s have to choose University courses and to decide on the foundations for our future career, I am finding great assurance in Christ. When I was younger, my dad used to tell me, "Yesterday's history and tomorrow's a mystery". That, and along with other social forces ingrained in me a picture of uncertainty and insecurity for the future.

Soon I realised that I was not alone with that sense of uncertainty and insecurity. Just a while ago, my friends were telling me how unsure they are of things to come. And how true it is - for our human minds cannot really grasp the wise ways of our Lord, for His thoughts are always higher.

Praise God for that though! Praise God also, that He is perfect, never makes mistakes and always has our best interests at heart. That is why He is the only one I can imagine myself placing full faith in - no one else could ever be like that.

Once this truth sunk in, I find myself relying on Him more and more. Yes, we may be uncertain of exactly how God plans to use us, but by the faith of His mighty love and eternal goodness, I believe things will turn out beautiful when we walk in Him.

So, there's no worries about which University course I should do, how to do it, how much it is, how long it takes, will I get a job after that, will that job be enjoyable... the questions could run into a book if I kept doubting! All it matters is that God is in control of my life and I have allowed Him simply because His love has provided me with a trust no one else in the world could offer.

Praise God for His many wonders and I pray that our lives be true blessings to Him and the people we are surrounded by everyday.

Nancy Wang



## Events @ Hope

Patrick Lim

### Home Cell Easter Outreach

In conjunction with the Easter “Sonrise” Service at Hope Church, the members from each Home Cell of Parramatta, Seven Hills, Greenvalley and Kensington had prepared their own mini baskets of goodies (including invitation pamphlet, Easter eggs and Hope Church brochures) for distribution in their own neighbourhood. Those members involved in the making of the baskets did a fantastic job, as it was a painstaking task for some who did them till almost midnight. On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2004, all the members of each Home Cell went door knocking in their own neighbourhood to personally invite and share the gospel of the risen Lord for the Easter “Sonrise” Service. It was an awesome time of outreach with the neighbours and most recipients of the baskets were particularly attracted to the Easter eggs (who wouldn’t).

### Easter “Sonrise” Service

Easter “Sonrise” Service was held on Sunday, 11<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at Hope Church as a mark of remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for our sins and rose from the dead on the third day. This

unconditional and sacrificial love of Jesus Christ for mankind is truly the greatest love ever demonstrated so that we can be saved from eternal condemnation in hell. All we have to do is to accept Jesus as our Lord and Saviour into our hearts to be saved. There is no other way that we can be saved from eternal condemnation except through Jesus. Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” – John 14:6.

One of the highlights in the Easter “Sonrise” Service was the screening of a short film entitled “Hope”. The film depicted the lives of some individuals who had to face and cope with the reality of death of their loved ones, relationship break-up, etc that could happen to anyone at any time. No one in this world can boast that they are immune to any kind of problems. When disaster or problem or sickness strikes, even the toughest person on earth will eventually succumb to the problem. It is only through Jesus that we are able to find hope and strength to continue to live a purposeful life that is filled with peace and joy in spite of the problems that we are facing.

### The Film – HOPE

Although this was the first attempt making a film in Hope Church, the acting skills of individuals and the quality of the film was simply incredible and commendable. The whole film lasted for about 12 minutes, but the commitment, time and effort put in by the casts and crew were simply indescribable. It took them about 4 days to shoot this short film. We would like to acknowledge and convey our special thanks to the following people for making the film a success.

Executive Producers - Aileen Gunawan and David Gunawan

Director & Producer – Jonathan Gunawan

Drama Coordinator - Karen Tong

Script Writers – Andrew Tang, Karen Tong and Jonathan Gunawan

Camera/Lighting - Jonathan Gunawan & Tim Tan

Make-up Artists – Allison Tong and Jamaylah Bama

Editors/Effects - Jonathan Gunawan & Tim Tan

Actors – Chanlar Yean, Andrew Tang, Stella Lim, Tim Tan, Karen Tong, Lun Ma, Kim Seng, Lim Voeung and Cham Voeung.

### All Day Prayer – “Alive”

Our second All Day Prayer, also known as “Alive”, for this year was held on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> April 2004 at the pastors’ home from 7am to 7pm. Once again, it was an awesome time of corporate prayer with the pastors and members of Hope Church coming together to pray and intercede for the Church (pastors, leaders and its members), the meetings and activities in Hope Church, Home Cell, outreach, our community and the world. We had much to rejoice as God continued to answer our prayer requests. We would like to thank Him for providing Hope Church with committed people to carry out His tasks week after week and still serving faithfully in the areas they were called upon. God had also been faithful in His blessings to many of us, and His unceasing love and grace that He had shown to so many of us despite our sinful nature.

Prayer can do wonders – change the life of individual, soften the heart of the toughest person, heal the incurable, etc. It is also a mean of communicating our heartfelt thanks to our Lord for the things He has blessed us with. So continue to pray in all circumstances and see the power of God at work.

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” – Philippians 4:6-7.

## Events

### Weekly Events

<b>Sunday:</b>	10 am	<i>Hope Church Worship Service</i> Jubilee Lane (off Marion St) Parramatta 2150
	10am	<i>Hope Kids</i>
	4pm	<i>Youthopea</i> Jubilee Lane (off Marion St) Parramatta 2150
<b>Monday:</b>	7:30pm	<i>Monday Night Prayer</i> 56 Delaney Drive Baulkham Hills 2153
<b>Wednesday:</b>	8pm	<i>Home Cells</i>

### Winter Events

<i>June 12th:</i>	<i>Men Of Hope</i>
<i>June 26th:</i>	<i>Women Of Hope</i>
<i>July 31st:</i>	<i>Men and Women Of Hope Combined</i>
<i>August 8th:</i>	<i>Hope Church Anniversary</i>
<i>August 25th:</i>	<i>Home Cell Combined - Winter Outreach</i>
<i>August 28th:</i>	<i>"Alive" - All Day Prayer</i>

## Resources

Resources and services available to you from Hope Mission Centre:

#### **www.hopemissioncentre.com:**

Complete with all the information you need to know about Hope Mission Centre, this website provides a continually updated wealth of resources that will build your life and encourage you.

#### **OBS - Online Bible Study:**

OBS is an online interactive Bible study, where users can share their thoughts on the current chapter being studied, edifying and building up each other in the Word of God via email. To find out more about OBS or subscribe, visit <http://www.hopemissioncentre.com/hopechurch.htm> and follow the link to OBS or email Pastor David Gunawan [david@hopemissioncentre.com](mailto:david@hopemissioncentre.com)

#### **www.youthopea.com:**

If you are looking for the latest in what's happening at Youthopea, this is the place to go! The Youthopea website contains info on upcoming events, the word; OBS, testimonies and articles, general info on Youthopea; when and where it is held, its vision, talk topics and leaders. The Youthopea website also contains an InStyle section exploring the latest media, technology and image trends in the market. Other features are games, downloads and the Forum-Y site.

Forum-Y is an interactive part of the Youthopea website which allows users to post questions and ideas on worship, the word, life questions, media, technology, fashion and anything in general! It is a place of fun, fellowship and sharing. Forum-Y is moderated daily which makes it a safe place to explore everyday issues with others.

#### **Hope Mission Centre Newsletter:**

This quarterly publication contains numerous articles, testimonies and everything you need to know about what is going on at Hope Mission Centre. So get your hands on one today!

#### **EQUIP training centre:**

With numerous training programs to build you up in the Word of God as well as ministry skills, EQUIP training centre will aid in empowering you to fulfil the plans God has for your life. With everything from audio/visual production workshops, worship seminars and music training to intensive discipleship programs (DOT.COM) teaching & preaching courses and leadership empowerment classes, EQUIP training Centre will help to equip you to fulfil your destiny. Contact Hope Mission Centre for more details.

#### **Sermon Tapes and CD's:**

This has to be one of the most awesome creations of technology ~ sermons recorded on cassette tapes and compact discs! Purchase a recording of the Hope Church Sunday sermons or Youthopea sermons for the low price of \$2 a Tape/CD! Just speak to Julia Loc and she'll arrange for one to be made for you.

Hope Mission Centre

# Building Fund

big God

big Vision

big Heart

We believe that God has prepared hearts like Caleb, a man with a “different” spirit, who dares to believe God, who see things positively, who gives his finances and life, who is courageous enough to step out, go in and possess.

We believe God has prepared individuals and families who are prepared to commit to give an amount of money over and above their normal tithes and offerings on a regular basis.

If the Lord is speaking to you to give to the Hope Mission Centre/Church building fund, our account details are as follows:

Name : Hope Mission Centre Inc. Building Fund  
 Bank : Commonwealth Bank of Australia  
 Branch : Stockland Mall, Baulkham Hills NSW  
 BSB No. : 062-336  
 Account No. : 1008 7884

If you wish to send a cheque, please make it payable to:

“Hope Mission Centre Inc. Building Fund”  
 56 Delaney Drive  
 Baulkham Hills 2153

All gifts and donations to the building fund are *tax deductible*.

Together, let us build a nation for the Lord Jesus Christ, a people of power and a healthy, strong and God-fearing generation.



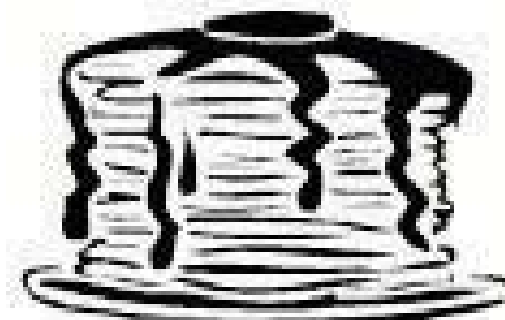
## Banana Pancakes

1 cup plain flour  
 1 tablespoon white sugar (optional)  
 2 teaspoons baking powder  
 ¼ teaspoon salt  
 1 egg (separated)  
 1 cup of milk  
 2 tablespoons oil  
 2 ripe bananas

Combine the plain flour, sugar, baking powder and salt. In a separate bowl, separate the egg white from the yolk and beat the egg whites until relatively stiff. In another bowl, combine the egg yolk, milk, oil and mashed bananas.

Combine the dry mixture and the wet mixture ensuring that all the ingredients are thoroughly mixed together. Note that there will be some lumps in the mixture due to the mashed bananas. Carefully fold the beaten egg white into the mixture being careful to retain as much air as possible in the mixture.

Cook the pancakes thinly over a medium-high heat flipping them over when the bubbles start to poke through.





# The Youth Pastor Writes...

Pastor David Gunawan

Snow is an interesting phenomenon. As miniscule dirt particles are carried up into the atmosphere by the wind, freezing atmospheric temperatures dress them in ice and send them parading down to earth. The result of many of these ice covered dirt particles is of course the wonderful white blanket we know as snow. For thousands of years, people have loved the scenic landscapes which the snow creates in the winter time, not to mention the recreational benefits it brings.



Snowboarding, halfpipe snowboarding, heli-snowboarding, kite-snowboarding (did I mention snowboarding?), are just some of the recreational activities and pleasurable past times which snow offers. However whilst the snow brings

much enjoyment and pleasure to us, the very Creator of the snow which we enjoy takes pleasure in those whose lives are as “white as snow”. The psalmist David recognised this and realised that his life did not exactly meet the holy and perfect standard that God required. Thus praying to God he said:

“Cleanse me with hyssop, and I will be clean;  
Wash me, and I will be whiter than snow.  
Create in me a pure heart, O God,  
and renew a steadfast spirit within me.”  
Psalm 51:7,10

God’s righteous standard is impossible for us as human beings to attain, however through His son Jesus, our sin-stained lives can truly become as white as snow. When we ask the Lord Jesus to forgive us and cleanse us, 1 John 1:9 promises that “he is faithful and just and will forgive our sins and purify us from

all unrighteousness”. Thus as simply as God makes the wonderful snow for us to enjoy, so too can He transform our lives to truly be as white as snow. All we have to do is simply confess our sins to God and the blood of Jesus will take care of the rest. If God can turn millions of specs of dirt particles into magnificent white crystals, how much more will He cleanse a repentant sinner who desires to please the Father!  
Dirt particles when in association with other dirt particles form nothing more than dirty dirt. However dirt particles that leave the dirt and are taken up to higher levels of the atmosphere, are transformed to form snow which falls back to the earth to create contrast to the dirt-filled landscape. In the same way, our lives are spiritually dirty in the eyes of God, however if we choose to elevate our heart and mind to the throne of the Father to be transformed, God will change us and our lives will settle on the earth to provide spiritual contrast and purity amongst the dirt of our sin-soaked society. God can and will use us then to

make a difference if we are willing to be changed and leave our worldly mindset. No doubt the transformation process is hard and requires endurance, but the results of holy living do not go unnoticed by the Lord.

As much as God has provided us the privilege of enjoying the snow which He has created, let us give Him the joy of seeing His creation live a holy life as white as snow. To bring pleasure to God is truly a privilege beyond our knowledge, therefore let us leave our old sinful ways and pursue lives of holiness, cleansed by the blood of Jesus.

I pray that envisioning the snow this winter will imprint a desire in your heart to pursue holiness. Let’s go forth and live lives that are pure, bringing pleasure to our Father in Heaven.

God bless,  
Pastor David Gunawan



# Look Through His Sunnies

Jonathan Gunawan - Youthoepa Director

"Put on the sunnies! Put on the sunnies!" Have you ever put on a pair of sun glasses that you just fell in love with? Or a pair of sun glasses that not only changed the appearance of yourself but the appearance of how you look at the world (whether it be shape, colour or perspective)? I just bought a new pair of sun glasses that not only look fantastic but also do the job. The job of protecting me from the light rays, the extreme glare and/or any other facets in which sun glasses achieve.

In this world many people have their own morals and standards, and many people have their own understanding of what is right and what is wrong or how I should live my life. So how do we know how to live our lives? Or rather, what am I meant to live for? **Romans 12:2** says *"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is-his good, pleasing and perfect will."* You see the pattern of this world is forever changing in the way people live their lives, technology,

environment, people, emotions, age, fashion and the list goes on. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, BUT be transformed by the renewing of you mind. But instead of following the ways of this world, but instead of living an ungodly life, but instead of living a life without reason, but instead of living a disappointed and unsatisfying life, **PUT ON THE SUNNIES!** When you **PUT ON THE SUNNIES** you *will* see what is true, you *will* see what is right and you *will* see the good, pleasing and perfect will that God has for you. God's pair of sunnies are far more superior than what the world has to offer. It does more than its job to protect you from light rays and extreme glare; it gives you a purpose and a reason for your being. The creator Himself wants us to see life through his eyes and experience life in the ways of Him. Why should we as children of God live lives that are dictated by what people think or what people say? We shouldn't put on the sunnies of the world, because the world has created their own morals and standards to follow. We are children of the most high King

who live upon much higher morals and standards than of this world. In **1 John 4:4-6** it writes, *"You, dear children, are from God and have overcome them, because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. They are from the world and therefore speak from the viewpoint of the world, and the world listens to them. We are from God, and whoever knows God listens to us; but whoever is not from God does not listen to us. This is how we recognize the Spirit of truth and the spirit of falsehood."* As we begin to put on the sun glasses of Christ, we will begin to know and recognize what is true and what is false.

The challenge today is the choice you have; whether you put the sun glasses of Christ ON or whether

you choose not to. It's a decision that you make to grow the vision and perspective of Christ, learning the Word of God and fellowshiping with believers. The sun glasses of God changes your vision, your heart, your attitude and the way you live your life. You see things through the creators' eyes and you understand the reason of your being. When you ask the Lord to *Open the eyes of my heart*, what you're asking is to see things through the sun glasses of Christ; seeing things that you have never seen before and receiving the impossible in your life.

Put on the sunnies of Christ and you will see the unseen treasures unravel in your life.

Jonathan Gunawan (JoNo)  
Youthoepa Director



# Yolk Yoke

Stephanie Lim

## What is the difference?

Stephanie Lim

A conversation on eggs (especially chicken eggs) usually sparks up deliberation on the controversial question: Did God create the egg first or the chicken? Regardless of the answer, the egg is a magnificent creation – a pale oval-shaped shell, housing a thick slippery substance within – capable of producing animal life, and adding nutrition to human life.

Eggs have become such a common necessity in households everywhere. Check your fridge now, and it is almost certain you will find some eggs inside! Besides the wonderful nutritional content of eggs, they hold an esteemed place in cooking due to their food chemistry, and serve many unique functions in recipes, including coagulation, foaming, emulsification and browning.

Here are some interesting facts on eggs:

- Eggs contain the highest quality protein you can buy.
- Eggs contain thirteen essential vitamins and minerals.
- Eggs are a very good source of

biotin, a B-vitamin involved in the metabolism of both sugar and fat. Therefore, eating eggs can help promote energy production, skin health and nervous system function.

- A large egg contains only 75 calories and 5 grams of fat.
- Lutein, a nutrient found in eggs help prevent age-related macular degeneration and cataracts.

And egg yolks:

-The Egg yolk is the major source of the egg's vitamins and minerals.

-Egg yolks are one of the few foods that naturally contain Vitamin D.

-Egg yolks contain anti-clogging proteins. Therefore eating eggs help lower risk of a heart attack or stroke by helping to prevent blood clots.

On the topic of eggs yolks let me share something very interesting I've learnt with you...

"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."  
Matthew 11:28-30

this passage flipping through my bibles and as I read this passage, a picture of this little orange egg yolk popped into my head and I tried to imagine what it would be like having Jesus' easy egg yolk in my hand - this soft shiny yoke that would allow me to find rest. It seems funny now that I had thought such a thing, but that was seriously what I understood of these verses. Little did I know then, of the power and magnificence these verses hold.

Yoke in its physical terms is a cross bar with 2 U-shaped pieces that encircle the necks of a pair of oxen or other draft animals working together, and when we apply it to the word and to the action of being 'yoked with Christ' basically means to become joined securely.

Christ, three major things occur.

is light" – Our God is strong and mighty, His shoulders are broad and robust, His strength is exuberant, and He is more than able to carry our heaviest burdens. When we are joined securely with Christ, there is no need to struggle on our own anymore because we are in an alliance with the strongest, most affluent partner. We are liberated from things, which would usually pin us down and impede us from moving forward because in Jesus,

all things are possible (Matthew 19:26) and you can do "all things through Christ who strengthens you." Philippians 4:13!

rest only takes place when our hearts and minds are at peace. Unless we cast our cares upon the Lord, we burden ourselves with unnecessary worries and rob ourselves of the peace which God gives. Remember that God is in control of our circumstances and His hands are readily at work in our lives. God is waiting to exchange our anxieties for His peace, so that we may rest and be strengthened in Him. Phil 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

to live a life worthy of Him and Jesus leads the way for us to do so. We find that when oxen are yoked together, they will move together. It is impossible for two yoked oxen to walk in opposite directions because they are joined together at the neck. When we are yoked with Christ, we too walk with Him on the same path. It is impossible for us to walk the wrong way or become lost because Jesus is the one leading the way, and we are securely joined to Him and walking with Him.

Proverbs 3:6 “In all your ways acknowledge him and he will make your paths straight.” Not only that, but Jesus leads us to the way of life everlasting, and He leads us to find the will of God and along with it, security, love, joy, peace and all things of God Psalm 23:2 “He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters.”

Let's walk yoked together with Christ, allowing Him to take our burdens, give us rest and guide us to the way everlasting.

For some egg trivia check out:

<http://www.enc-online.org/trivia.html>



## Have you seen this man?

Karen Tong

Excuse me sir, have you seen this man?  
I was holding His nail-scarred hand  
But that was an age ago  
Where He is now, I do not know.

I met Him first on a winter day,  
Ominous clouds darkened the sky to grey,  
Tormented sleep beneath a barren tree  
There He did come and rescue me.  
He reached out, I touched the mark in His palm  
And with a powerful whisper, the storm  
He did calm.  
Tenderly He raised a gentle finger to wipe  
a tear  
He drew me close and said, “I am near, I  
am here.”

This is when I began  
To walk with Him hand in hand.  
He led me down a narrow road  
And on His back I placed my load.  
We journeyed toward a place He called  
Home,  
He taught me of things I had not heard  
or known,  
My cold and calloused heart He did  
capture  
And warm in His love and grace, But wait  
—

What is it that I perceive?  
A shadow I do believe  
Shifting sideways amidst the brambles,  
sliding  
Through the sandy soil and colliding  
With another, both as subtle as breath,  
They lured me into the darkness of death.  
I snatched my burden from His back  
And against His caution, walked into the  
black.  
I followed the wayward ways

Of the shadows for many days  
And now here I am, lost and afraid  
And looking for that man who laid  
Down His life for me and broke the chain  
That confines and binds me again  
Because I turned away from eternity  
Distracted by the shadows haunting me.

I must find Him and tell Him that I know  
He is the only one that can show  
Me the way back Home.

Excuse me sir, have you seen my child?  
She has been missing for a while  
I was holding her hand but she pulled away  
And into the night she was led astray  
By the shadows that lurk on the side  
Of the path of life and hide  
In the shrubs beyond the reaches of light  
Humming empty promises of delight.

I tried to stop her but she insisted  
And curious as a child, she persisted  
Until she caught the shadows she did chase  
Not knowing it would lead to this place,  
A pit of hopelessness and despair –  
Is that my precious child over there?  
Bent over, crouched and weeping,  
Is that my name she is speaking?

Where are you man with the nail-scarred  
hand?  
I'm scared in this desolate and foreign  
land.  
Wiping away the blur in my eyes  
I see a familiar hand and realise  
That your faithfulness is touching me  
Through the outstretched hand of Thee.  
And you say, “Here I am, I came,  
As I always will when you call my name.”

It is easy to get distracted by things as we journey with Jesus toward Heaven – all it takes is a sidelong glance at something in the shadows of the world to catch our attention... However, even in our faithlessness, God remains faithful. Let us persevere in our faith, let us take His hand. Let us focus on Him and Let us allow Him to guide us Home.

## Have You Seen This Man?



## “No offence ...”

Karen Tong

“No offence, but you really smell.”  
 “No offence, but I don’t want to hang out with you all the time.”  
 “No offence, but I think that you’re just not right for this job.”  
 “No offence, but what were you thinking when you got dressed this morning?”

Offence. You may have felt it at some point in your life: a friend talks behind your back, another stops talking to you, the behaviour of yet another displeases you, your parents are too unreasonable, your brother or sister take you for granted, your boyfriend doesn’t give you enough attention, your wife hasn’t cooked your favourite dish for a while, your neighbour plays his music too loud, your teacher was too strict, your boss was unfair, the sales assistant was too rude, the advertisement was too obnoxious, the pastors preaching was too blunt, maybe, you’ve even felt offended by God.

Yet is there more to offence than what is commonly perceived? Today, this word is most frequently used to describe the act of instigating anger, resentment or displeasure, however, taking a closer look at its Greek root, “skandalon,” offence implies causing another to sin or fall. Since this is Satan’s

ultimate aim, offence is one of the key instruments that Satan uses to lure Christians away from the will of God, to trap and ensnare believers and keep them from walking in the light of the Father’s love and mercy. The trap of offence is laid at every possible place and time as Satan eagerly waits for someone to enter into his captivity. Furthermore, the opportunity for offence is inevitable because where there are people, there will be imperfection and therefore grounds for disagreement leading to offence. In Jesus’ life on earth, there were innumerable opportunities when He could have taken offence, however, he somehow managed to evade the bait of offence.

At His birth, Jesus already had reason to be offended. He was the divine Son of God who was laid in a manger within a stable, encased in flesh, to live on this earth as a man. However, Jesus was not offended because He fully understood His unchangeable identity and chose to humble Himself and become a man in order to set us free. In his secure knowledge of his position as the Son of the Living God, Jesus also understood that there was a price to pay for His dearly beloved people, His own life. Philippians 2:6-7 says,

“Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.” Jesus was not offended but instead, He temporarily laid down His rights, His privileges and His position in heaven to seek, save and serve all of mankind with the hope of the eternal glory of God kept as His focus.

During Jesus’ years of ministry, there were few that were truly receptive of His message accompanied by the many who rejected His message and also Christ Himself. In the Bible, it says that “even His own brothers did not believe in Him” (John 7:5) and the people of His hometown “wanted to seize Him” (John 7:44). Opposition against Christ was continually present throughout His ministry years even though everything that He was, each word that He spoke and all that He did was good, perfect and just. Many opportunities for offence arose, however, Jesus remained in righteousness by keeping His focus on eternal things and diligently obeying the will of the Father (John 4:34). Christ did not judge or condemn those who resisted Him, nor did He become offended because He trusted God in all things and knew that as long as He walked on the righteous path, God would protect Him and provide for Him

and He would be kept safe from the attack of offence or any other negative thoughts and feelings.

The cross was the ultimate test of Christ’s resilience to offence. All of His closest friends and followers, the twelve disciples, had abandoned Him. Judas betrayed Him (Matthew 26:47-50), Peter denied Him three times (Matthew 26:69-75) while the others fled for their own lives (Matthew 26:56), leaving Christ to suffer, forsaken and alone. Even as He was stripped, humiliated, tortured, whipped, mocked and ridiculed, suffering indescribable, excruciating agony, He did not allow Himself to feel offended in any way. Furthermore, God Himself, His Holy Father in Heaven turned away from Him because He bore the weight of our sins upon His shoulders. The Son of God, the Lamb without blemish, was sacrificed and died a humiliating sinner’s death so that we might have life. Offended? No. Instead He chose to love with a perfect love that “keeps no record of wrongs” (1 Corinthians 13:5). Nothing mattered to Christ, not position or glory, except the will of God and in humility, Jesus graciously accepted the demeaning task of coming to this earth to save us because of His love-driven obedience and submission to God the Father and His insurmountable love for man.

In summary, these are Christ’s defences for offence:

1. **IDENTITY** – Know who God is and who you are in Christ and stand firm in this knowledge so that if anyone offends you, you will not be moved because of the security you have in Him.

2. **HUMILITY** – In His Word, God says that our “attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus” (Philippians 2:5) who was neither proud nor self-fulfilling but rather He came to be a servant to the whole world. Once we assume a servanthood position, we are giving up our rights and privileges to do the will of the Father and help others. Where there is humility, there is no such thing as offence.

3. **RIGHTEOUSNESS** – Focus on God and walk in the path of righteousness by following His Word, His will and His ways. Although there will inevitably be boulders blocking the way and distracting things along the side of the path, however, do not give in to the lure of offence but choose to do the will of the Father.

4. **LOVE** – The love that God has so graciously bestowed upon us, makes us “more than conquerors” (Romans 8:37), even over offence. God commands us to “Love one another” (John 13:34) with a love that is patient and kind, that doesn’t envy or boast or be proud, rude and self-seeking, that is not easily angered and rejoices in truth (1 Corinthians 13). Love also covers all wrongs and therefore requires us to forgive people even when they have repeatedly offended us (Matthew 18:21-22). Remember the undeserved love that God showed for us on the cross, how much more should we extend this love to all those around us?

Offended? No. Never. Instead, choose to walk in His LOVE, MERCY and GRACE.

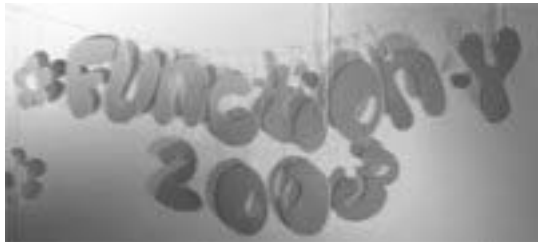
# Events @ Youthopea

Karen Tong

## YOUTHPEA EVENTS

### Function-Y

Our last Youthopea in “the house” was a night of nostalgia as we wrapped up the year to a very GROOVY theme. Everyone came in their 70’s gear and joined in the fun and games, worship and Word and the recognition of a special few who were awarded for categories ranging from fashion sense to spiritual growth. We were also treated to a video reminiscing the wonderful memories created in 2003, the laughter, the fun... and the embarrassment! Praise God for the tremendous, glorious night we had.



## HOLIDAY EVENTS

During the holidays, Youthopea went to different places to have a bit of fun and fellowship. Just in case you missed out, here’s what happened ...

### Beach Day

This day turned out to be more than just a beach day. This was also the day that a dear sister in Christ from Singapore (Samantha Chua) was baptised - Praise God! We also saw God’s hand at work holding back the rain during the baptism

but allowing it to pour down as we all enjoyed the waves. But that’s not all; this Beach Day was just full

of surprises. After having a bit of a swim, we headed off to the East Gardens shopping mall for lunch and we had a sweet-as time. We concluded the day with a delectable dinner at the infamous Hurricanes – their flavour’s hot!

## Amazing Race

The most anticipated event of the year, the Amazing Race pitted 5 teams of secret service agents from all around the world, against in other in a race that was amazing. The teams were sent on a mission following the cryptic clues all around Crestwood. There were times when teams were head to head and they had to depend on their “secretive skills” ” to not give away the next clue. The adrenaline was pumping as the agents raced hard against each other, determining the elite from the not so elite. In the end, it was the team FBI agents that claimed the victory and one of the SIS agents, the very “secret” Lim, was awarded “The Most Amazing Racer” award.

## Glaciarium

Our last Youthopea Holiday Event took us from the scalding summer heat, to the icy, cool skating rink. As always, we had a wonderful time chasing each other around, pushing each other over, throwing ice at each other, secretly laughing at Tanga’s first moments on ice – in seven years! We also experienced the “sardine effect” as we sucked in out tummies and squashed fourteen people in the claustrophobic elevator cell. As usual, our enjoyment of fellowshiping with one another caused us to loiter in the car park for another twenty minutes before heading back home.



## Talk of the Town

> june

God is a friend

That's what he is; a friend! This month we'll look at the relationship we have with God and how we can develop and deepen that relationship we have with God. Draw close to God and he will draw close to you.

> july

Giving and Getting

What you give is what you get! The principle of sowing and reaping is such a tremendous principle that expands our faith, trust and love in God. It allows us the opportunity to practice the act of giving cheerfully and generously from our heart. This principle in Christ is a secret that when opened pours out overflowing blessing.

> august

BGR's

One of the most favoured topics of all; Boy and Girl Relationships. In the month of August Youthopea will be talking about BGR's. What BGR's are and how to go about it; all based upon the Bible. It will be an exciting month with much discussion and a panel at the end of the month of young and also experienced people to talk about BGR's and answer questions.

## Brain Teasers

- gesg  
segg  
gegs  
gges

What is it?

- Pronounced as one letter but written with three, two different letters there are and two only in me. I'm double, I'm single I'm black, blue, and gray. I'm read from both ends and the same either way.

- What is it that when you take away the whole, you still have some left over?

- Jessica dropped an earring in her coffee, but the earring did not get wet. How could this be?

- Though liquid in nature, don't push me too far; for then I will break, and the damage may scar. What am I?

- Scrambled Eggs
- Eye
- Wholesome
- She dropped it in an open bag of coffee beans.
- Glass

## Hope Kids

Dear precious people!

Praise God for the new and wonderful things that have been happening at HopeKids. A big thank you to all the new children's ministry helpers who have been tremendous, demonstrating remarkable singing, dancing, acting skills and impressive creativity. The children have been truly blessed by their love, care and patience.

Recorder lessons have also commenced which are held every week after Sunday School. It has been fantastic to see them develop musical talent and the children are learning incredibly fast. Blossoming musicians – Please continue to practise, develop your skills and use them for God's glory. God promises that He will multiply your talents as you use them! [Matthew 25:14]

During this winter season, as we wrap ourselves up in beanies, scarfs and gloves, let us remember to envelop ourselves in a warm and special relationship with God. As we love Him deeply, we will desire to live righteously

in His perfect will. The Bible says in Psalm 37:6, "He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn, the justice of your cause like the noonday sun." Those who live righteously shine as the light and live in complete security Christ provides, with all fear dissipating like a child who is afraid of the dark but feels reassured the moment there is light. By having such a close relationship with God, the justice of our cause will shine like the noonday sun, as we touch our family, friends and all those around us by showing love, having a genuine attitude of love towards them. The noonday sun is a blessing, particularly during the months of winter, so let us be reminded to walk upright and be a true blessing to all those around us, throughout all the seasons.

May God continue to pour His great love upon all of you!

Allison Tong

