



# GRACE NEWS

A Grace Baptist Church  
Quarterly Newsletter

## STANDING ON THREE LEGS

Believe, Belong, Behave



Pastor Ian introduces GBC's theme for 2018 and explains why discipleship is like a three-legged stool.

I've been told that – because three points always establish a plane – a three-legged stool is always more stable than a four-legged chair, especially if one is sitting on an uneven surface. If this is true, then I suggest that in the uneven dips and bumps of the Christian life, discipleship is much like a three-legged stool.

The traditional discipleship model stands on one leg: Bible study. The assumption is, the more we study the Bible the more we grow as Christian disciples. Though knowing and believing God's word is essential to Christian growth, it is clear that Jesus believed there was more to discipleship than knowing His words. In Luke's Gospel, He asks the question, "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like..." (Luke 6:46ff).

*“Disciples are invited to believe Somebody. Not just to know His word, but to believe it to be absolutely reliable and worthy of our trust.”*

This year our Bible-teaching ministry will explore the books of 1 Timothy, Deuteronomy, Hosea, and 2 Peter as we seek to grow in our understanding of the implications of the three interdependent legs of the discipleship stool. These three legs can be summarised as:

**1. Believe.** Disciples are invited to believe Somebody. Not just to know His word, but to believe it to be absolutely reliable and worthy of our trust.

**2. Belong.** Disciples are called to live with Somebody. Realising that discipleship does not take place in isolation, we are committed to living together with Christ. It is in community that disciples learn to love, and be loved. It is only in community that we can exercise the

many 'one another' imperatives of Christian living.

**3. Behave.** Disciples are called to obey Somebody. If His name is 'Lord' then all discipleship is based upon our obedience to His commands. It is in our obedience that we learn behaviours that provide evidence of the gospel at work in our lives and direct glory to God.

I look forward to an exciting journey together in 2018, and pray that you will consider whom God would have you invite to join us as we learn how to believe, belong and behave! Ω



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## WHY I BELIEVE

Longtime church member **Leong Kuan Yui** shares with us his faith journey and explains how knowing Christ has changed his life

**Please provide a brief introduction of yourself and tell us how you came to know the Lord.**

I am a member of GBC and have been worshipping here for more than 60 years, ever since the church was first started at Kampung Silat. I was introduced to GBC by two of our pioneers, Miss Dorcas Lau and Miss Lora Clement, both missionaries from the Southern Baptist Convention. At the time I was 12 and used to play at a playground near Kampung Silat. When I was approached by them and invited to their ‘shophouse’ church (the birthplace of GBC) I went along, and as the saying goes, ‘the rest is history’.

My mum brought me to a Hakka church when I was younger, but coming to GBC marked the true beginning of my Christian journey. Later in my teenage years I was baptised in the sea at Changi by the late Pastor Paul Lenn. After accepting Jesus I was very active in reaching out to people and would evangelise whenever I had the opportunity. In secondary school I started the Youth For Christ Club (YFC), and when I was studying Electronics and Communications at Singapore Polytechnic I was a key founding member of the Polytechnic Christian Fellowship (PCF).

After my retirement from secular employment, I committed to serving the Lord full-time and was seconded by GBC to serve in the Prison Fellowship at Changi Prison. I was there for 10 years ministering to the inmates. I also served as Deacon overseeing care groups for a few years in GBC.

The Lord blessed my wife, Carol and me with three sons, Tzi Ping, Tzi Ming and Tzi Ying. Although I am now out of the prison ministry, I continue to serve the Lord by reaching out to non-believers, giving out gospel tracts to people I meet during my morning stroll at a park near my home. In church, both my wife and I help out with pastoral visits.

**What does it mean to you to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour?**

Acts 4:12 says “Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved.” This verse convicted me that I would be saved only by believing and accepting Jesus as Lord and Saviour. My perspective changed and I understood the true meaning and purpose of life, and was convicted to live a life centred around our Lord, obeying and serving Him wholeheartedly. I understood that any sacrifice I must make is nothing compared to what God has done for me. Sacrifice is a part of the Christian faith. We sacrifice our lives daily as we live with the impact of Christ’s sacrifice for us, and strive to hold on loosely to the things of this world.



*Leong Kuan Yui (back row, middle) with his family.*

**What is your favourite name of God and what does it mean to you?**

I often address God as ‘Heavenly Father’. He loves me and provides for me and my family like a father who loves and provides for his family and children (Matt 6:26). He disciplines and cares for me as a father would (Deuteronomy 8:5). God is not a high and mighty faraway being, but someone close and personal. He is a fatherly figure who watches over me constantly (Deut 31:6), and in all my distress I am not troubled (Ps 34:19).

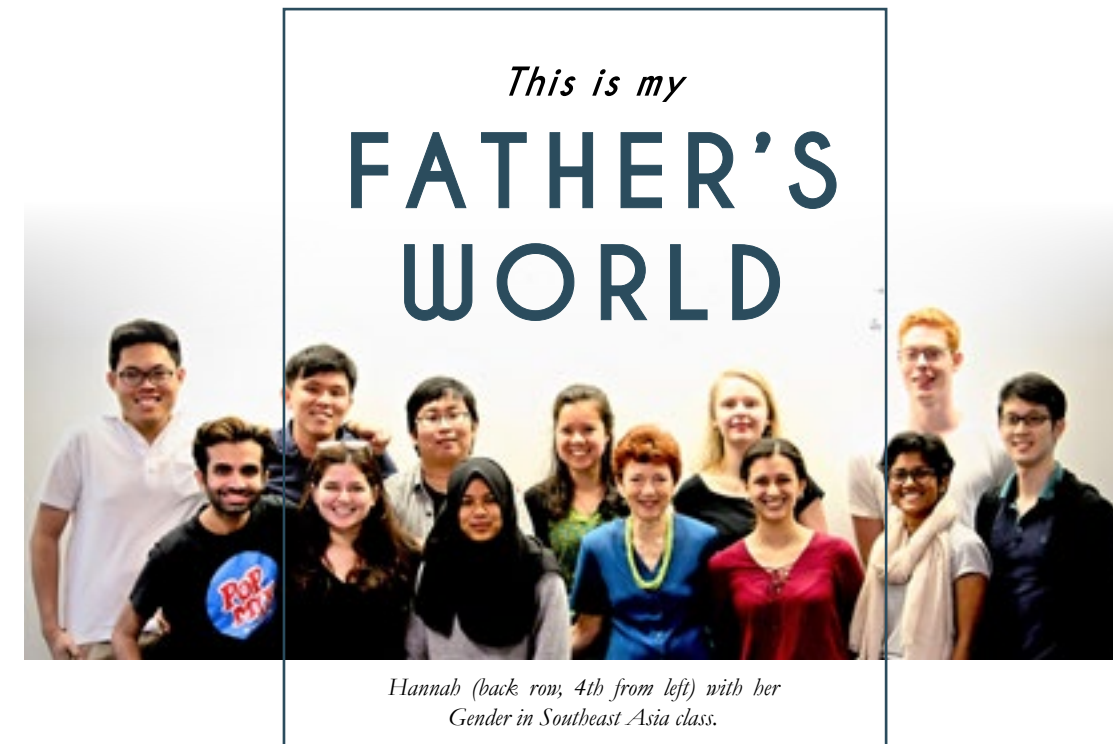
“ “ God is not a high and mighty faraway being, but someone close and personal. He is a fatherly figure who watches over me constantly, and in all my distress I am not troubled . ” ”

**How has knowing God shaped your faith over all these years of following and walking with Him?**

I am thankful to God that He has kept me strong and faithful to this day. Despite challenges posed by life, my faith has not waned. While there have been ups and downs, these experiences have only served to further strengthen my walk with Him. After the recent passing of Dr Poulson, I was truly inspired and encouraged all the more to serve Him faithfully, living a life of faithful service till the end (Phil 1:6), and leaving behind a spiritual legacy for others to emulate.

**What would you like the church to pray specifically, for those who have yet to receive Jesus?**

I sincerely pray that the Holy Spirit will open their hearts and convict them of their need for Jesus. I pray that God will remove all their doubts and uncertainties so they can take that step of faith to embrace God’s love. May they invite Him into their lives and see the difference He will make. I know because He made a difference in mine. Ω



*University student Hannah Yeo reflects on how she came to believe in Jesus, and celebrates the difference this has made to her thinking and outlook on life.*

**Hi, Hannah! Could you tell us a bit more about yourself, and how you came to know the Lord?**

I’m a fourth-year student, finishing up my History degree at Yale-NUS College. I came to know Jesus as my Lord after my gap year in 2013-14. Growing up I was a happy kid, enjoying sports, learning, and playing with friends. However, as I progressed in school, my own ‘success’ began getting to my head. I thought, wow, I get prizes, I’m good at stuff and I go to church, serve in Youth and even went on a missionary ship! That made me a super-Christian, right?

Wrong, so wrong, but God had to help me see I was not a Christian at all – just a proud sinner drowning in the quicksand of my own rebellion. This revelation coincided with being diagnosed with bipolar disorder at age 20 which crushed my confidence. For once I felt I was drowning, overwhelmed by a sense of there being no solution, no end to my racing thoughts and fears for the future. Desperate for release and answers, I started seeking the Truth in a way I’d never done before. God put Christian people in my life to encourage me, and led me to a good Bible study where I

learned for myself who the God of the Bible is; I turned from my obsessing over myself and cast myself on Him.

**What does it mean to you to believe in Jesus as Lord and Saviour?**

It means believing that my sins have been nailed to the cross: God is not going to punish me for them, but amazingly he makes me His child, part of His family. So instead of condemning myself for my sin, I run to Jesus and trust that God is continually changing me to be more like His Son. Best of all it means HOPE that King Jesus will one day come to bring us into God’s perfect kingdom where there will be peace at last.

**What is your favourite name of God and what does it mean to you?**

Father of Glory! I love Ephesians 1:17 in the ESV translation because it explains what kind of Father God is – a ‘This is my Father’s world’ kind of Father – so powerful, and so concerned with His work, His holiness, and His glory. It also reminds me of the book *Big God* by Orlando Saer, because it contains the idea that God is not small and simple but out-of-this-world glorious. Yet because he is our Father we can keep understanding new layers to His glory!

“ “ ...instead of condemning myself for my sin, I run to Jesus and trust that God is continually changing me to be more like His Son. ” ”

**How has knowing God shaped your faith over all these years of following and walking with Him?**

Over the years I have come to know God in new ways. The book of Job taught me that God is bigger than every problem or human argument. The book of Ruth showed me God’s lovingkindness, so I was assured of putting my faith in a God who loves to provide for His people. This year, the book of Mark taught me what it means for Jesus to be a King who dies so His people can live, and got me super excited about living for His kingdom! Reading J I Packer’s *Knowing God* also reminded me that God is my Father, giving me confidence in His goodness and love towards me. More recently I have been thankful to God for sanctifying us (Phil 1:6). This keeps my faith going when I loathe myself for my sin, because remembering that it is God who changes me keeps me from falling into the pit of legalism.

**What would you tell someone who is still doubtful about Jesus and the truth?**

Keep searching, and be careful where you get your information from (especially if your answers only come from your own brain). Read the Bible for yourself and read a lot of it! Don’t be afraid to pray and ask questions – you have nothing to lose.

**What would you like the church to pray specifically, for those who have yet to receive Jesus?**

For non-Christians to have soft hearts, hearing ears and spiritual sight to receive the gospel. For Christians to love the gospel so much that talking to a non-believer about Jesus would be the thing that makes us most excited! Ω



# Seekers Class: Christianity 101

*Do you know that GBC has classes available where you and your friends can hear the gospel explained? During the rebuilding of our church at Mattar Road, we held this Seekers Class 'on-demand' rather than on a regular basis, but we are now ready to revert to a fixed schedule. Chong Kang Wei tells us about the Seekers Class and inspires us to get involved.*

## What is the Seekers Class about?

First and foremost the Seekers Class is NOT about you (or me), for the Bible tells us “...no one seeks for God” (Romans 3:11b). Thus in that sense, a seeker of God cannot be found outside of God’s intervention. Rather, it is about God, for “...the son of man came to seek and save the lost” (Luke 19:10). The Seeker is our just and loving creator God who sent His son, Jesus to carry out His ‘secret’ rescue plan to save us – this is the gospel.

The who is really what the Seekers Class is about. In some sense, it is still a ‘secret’ for many because they have yet to hear the gospel. “...And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear

without someone preaching?” (Romans 10:14b,c) Others may have heard but not understood, as pointed out in Romans 3:11a: “...no one understands”. Left to themselves no one seeks and no one understands, so the very act of seeking and understanding is also an act of God.

To sum up, the Seekers Class is a gospel proclamation ministry for those who have yet to hear or those who have heard but have not understood. It is also recommended for those who have yet to experience the transformative power of the gospel, or those who struggle with assurance of salvation and are looking to rediscover the gospel afresh. The Seekers Class is Christianity 101.

## When is it?

We will resume class early in 2018. Each run consists of four consecutive sessions which repeat quarterly. Currently the venue is in church after the service, but we may explore using homes on other days. Details to follow in the ministry guide.

## How can I get involved?

This rescue mission is real, it is still going on and the clock is ticking. So, now that you have been rescued, go and help others!

### 1. Start with your heart:

Ask God to rejuvenate the joy of the Good News in your life.

Ask God to stir up your desire to love Him and the people around you whom Jesus died for.

### 2. Possible actions:

Send people to us – start thinking about names and faces.

Send yourself to us - don’t worry about feeling inadequate (it’s not about you, remember?)

## Who can I contact?

Chong Kang Wei  
Email: chongkangwei@yahoo.com  
Contact number: 9476 4196



An opportunity to walk each other through a couple of key Bible passages to help us understand who God is and what He has done.

One beggar telling another beggar where he found bread, and at an appropriate moment helping facilitate a personal response to Jesus as Saviour and Lord.

A story-telling session (about a grand rescue mission), involving you and I as its characters.

An equipping avenue for those who desire to articulate the gospel better and bring God’s light to all nations.

# Filipina Ministry



(L-R) Jane Esote, Dynah, Lealyn, Maribelle, Pat, Racel, Evelyn, Tina, Tess.

*Set up in 1985, the Filipina Ministry aims to meet the spiritual and emotional needs of our Filipino sisters in Christ. Heng Wen Xiu interviews Patricia Chan about the challenges of helming this ministry, and Jocelyn Gan Lo-quinario, Racel Singular, Evelyn Daborbor, Tess Zamora and Dynah Alberca about how the ministry has supported them in their faith journey.*

## Wen Xiu: Hi Aunty Pat! How did you come to join the Filipina Ministry?

**Pat:** Many years ago, I saw three Filipina migrant workers sobbing in a park, and the Lord gave me a burden to befriend this group of ladies working in Singapore. From 1981 to 1984 I was helping troubled/distressed Filipina domestic helpers working in my neighbourhood.

In 1985 by divine arrangement, I met Mrs Beth Seow, a Filipina residing in Singapore as a Permanent Resident. Beth was worshipping in GBC with her family when she started a Bible study for fellow Filipinas who were working in the households of some GBC members. She invited me to share my personal testimony with her class – I believe I found favour with them because I was invited back for more visits. Eventually, I started to co-teach the Bible with Beth.

When the late Dr Poulson became GBC’s senior pastor, the Filipina class was officially adopted into GBC’s Outreach Ministry. Dr Poulson saw it as missions at our doorstep. To emphasise the importance of this outreach, he decided to appoint a deacon’s wife to take charge, and I was given that awesome privilege. Dr Poulson’s strong conviction infected me to give full commitment to this ministry.

The average attendance grew to 25 – it was crowded in the classroom, but we were happy, spiritually hungry, and in love with the Lord. Dr Poulson also made it a point to invite the Filipina class to present a song item at GBC’s Christmas service. This was a highlight for the class every Christmas. A few ladies from this class attended Dr Poulson’s recent wake, and I was deeply touched because they had to courageously ask their employers for permission to do so.

“...the Filipina class was officially adopted into GBC’s Outreach Ministry. Dr Poulson saw it as missions at our doorstep.”

## Wen Xiu: How has the Filipina Ministry encouraged you in your walk with God?

**Pat:** For the last 32 years, I have had the joy and privilege of witnessing the Lord’s work in the lives of the ladies in the Filipina Ministry. Many have come to know Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Saviour: now they bring their needs to Him in prayer. Some also went through seminary training to serve the Lord in full-time Christian ministries; one married a pastor; while another married a missionary. There were also some who taught in Sunday School.

## Wen Xiu: What are some of the challenges the Filipina Ministry faces?

**Pat:** The church rebuilding has affected the class attendance. Attending worship service

at 3 pm was inconvenient for some, so a few settled down in another church nearer to them. However, for other absentees, some still have not returned to worship or fellowship, even though our church has resumed worship service at 9 am.

For other girls, the needs continue to be spiritual, emotional and financial. The challenge is to work with them towards financial independence and reunion with their husbands back in the Philippines, in addition to growing them in their faith.

## Wen Xiu: Jocelyn, Racel, Evelyn, Tess and Dynah, how has the Filipina Ministry helped you to grow as a Christian?

**Jocelyn:** Being part of the Filipina Ministry has helped me to grow in knowledge and wisdom to face life challenges, so that I may serve the Lord with gratitude and faith regardless of how good or bad the circumstances may be.

**Racel:** I have learnt who God is through our study of the Bible, prayer and sharing among members.

## Wen Xiu: How may we as a church pray for the Filipina Ministry?

**Evelyn:** Please pray that our knowledge of God will grow deeper, and that each of us may allocate time to study God’s word within our busy schedules.

**Tess:** Please pray that more students will come to the class to learn God’s word and to know God, and that Ma’am Pat will have the knowledge and wisdom to teach us God’s word.

**Dynah:** Please pray that each of us in the Filipina Ministry would have courage to share the gospel with non-believers.

**Pat:** Pray that the girls can assimilate into the GBC community, and that they will have opportunities to exercise the unique gifts God has given them, such as their beautiful voices and their experience in caring for children or the elderly. On a personal note, after three decades I feel that it is about time I make way for the Lord to give this awesome privilege of leading the Filipina class to another sister-in-Christ. Please pray for a successor to come forward as the Lord leads. Ω



# MISSIONS/EVENTS



Tom and Clare Chandler

The first time I heard the gospel and had the opportunity to believe in Christ, I thought all the congregation would have to be in the toilet and that we'd see a fountain filled with blood. Let me explain.

I grew up on a pig farm. In fact, until I went to university I had never been in a grocery store, only been in a restaurant when travelling with my high (secondary) school sports team, and seldom used currency.

## From Farm Boy to Global Ambassador

Tom Chandler, one of GBC's partner missionaries and a former interim pastor of our church, explains how God used his unique background to prepare him for his future ministry in Asia. Tom and his wife Clare now reside in the US.

We were self-contained on the farm. In addition, I was acutely dyslexic with a slight speech impediment. I was socially very shy and looked upon as 'retarded' because of my learning disability. But I did excel in sports like American football and basketball.

In my senior year of high school I received a basketball scholarship to LeTourneau Technical Institute (now LeTourneau University). LeTourneau was a Christian school. My roommate was a Christian, whereas I had never even been inside a church in my life. So I went with my roommate to church for the first time. I was always curious to know what went on in those funny-looking buildings.

The people were singing, "There is a fountain filled with blood drawn from Immanuel's veins." Some of my ancestors were Cherokee Indian. Human blood was too sacred to talk

about among the Cherokees and there was a belief that you would be cursed by the spirit world if you did so. Yet here were these Christians singing about human blood. It made me sick to sing about a person's blood coming out of a fountain. Furthermore, the pastor's first words were, "This morning we are going to be in John." I couldn't believe what I was hearing. To me the word 'john' was a colloquial expression referring to the toilet.

My background before believing in Christ may seem tragic or humorous depending on how you view it. I'm grateful for it because in God's sovereignty it prepared me as an American missionary/pastor to identify with those in Asia who grow up semi-literate and in fear of the spirit world. Very few Caucasian Americans have that privilege. Ω



### 28 Oct: YA Screening of Luther Movie

Our Young Adults helped the rest of the church mark the 500th anniversary of the Protestant Reformation by holding a screening of a documentary by Stephen McCaskell on the life and times of Martin Luther. Pastor Ian gave opening remarks about the "monk who changed the world". We had a great turnout and a lovely time of being together as a community.



### Nov/Dec: Baptisms and Transfer of Membership

We praise God for the baptism of our brother Raveendra Gunta (above) on 19 November. We also welcomed nine new members to the GBC family during our Christmas service on 24 December. In His grace, God is gathering the nations and doing wonderful things here at GBC.



L-R: (top row) via transfer of membership: Ditric and Zexuan; via baptism: William, Xue Yang, with Pastor Eugene Low.

(bottom row) Michelle, Nicholas, Cherry, Pearl and Caleb.

# EVENTS

### 18-21 Oct: Dr E N Poulson (1926-2017) ▶

We paid tribute to Rev (Dr) E N Poulson who was called home to the Lord on 13 October 2017. We give thanks for this dear servant of the Lord and pray that we will continue Dr Poulson's legacy of loving God and obeying His word.

### 21 Oct: YA Evangelistic Prata Party ▼

This event was an opportunity for our YAs to invite friends to a church-based activity. The team originally planned for 30 people, but God graciously provided for 50, including 12 guests! Alvin Cho's testimony and Pastor Ian's sharing of the gospel sparked some interest in the guests to know more about God, as well as prompting our YAs to clarify their own beliefs.

### 21-24 Dec: Youth Camp 2017 ▲

Our youths had a great time learning God's word, preparing for the year ahead, and getting to know one another better!



### 24 Dec: Christmas Celebration

GBC celebrated her first Christmas after returning to 17 Mattar Road! With much rejoicing, the GBC family reflected on the significance of Christ's coming to dwell amongst us. After the service, we gathered again to sing carols in the fellowship hall! It was lovely to see the GBC family of Christ gathered in one place to celebrate Christmas together.



### 31 Dec: Family Dedication

Three families dedicated their infants to the Lord, pledging to bring them up to know and love Jesus. The congregation also expressed our commitment to support these families, to teach and model God's truth to all the precious children in our midst. (L-R) The Boon family: Noah, Chihiro, Kyle and Emma; the Lau family: Fidelia, Gerald and Hannah; the Mori family: Toshi, Shinji, Andrea and Akiko.



### 31 Dec: Watchnight Service

120 GBC members attended our first ever marathon Watchnight Service on the last day of the year. The service started with a simple catered dinner and ended at midnight after a sweet time of worship, reflection, sharing and re-covenanting as a church. Ω



# CHILDREN'S CORNER

## The Three B's

### 1<sup>st</sup> B: Believe

By Rachel Wong

When I was young I used to believe in the tooth fairy. I never saw her, but every time I left a tooth under my pillow it would be replaced by a coin. Until one day I forgot to inform my parents my tooth had fallen out, and nothing happened! That's when I stopped believing in the tooth fairy.

We have never seen God either, and some people say you can't believe in a God you haven't seen. But why do people think you have to see something to believe in it? The Bible says faith is "being certain of what you do not see" (Hebrews 11:1). You have never been to Antarctica, but you believe it exists, don't you? And I'm sure you believe you have a liver in your body, even though you've never seen it.

The reason people believe in things they haven't seen is that there are other ways of knowing about the world than just relying on our eyes. We listen to people talk who have been to Antarctica and we trust that they are telling the truth. We are not seriously ill so we know we must have a liver. In the same way, God has given us evidence to show us He exists, such as the beauty of creation, His words in the Bible, and the way He is working in our lives and in others' lives. God would never expect us to believe in something without reason, or without giving us some kind of clue that He is at work, although it may not be the kind of clue we can see with our eyes.

So our belief in God is more than just hoping - we can KNOW that He is real. And God can always be trusted - not like the tooth fairy! Ω

### What Belief is

- The work of the Holy Spirit
- Based on knowledge
- Characterised by trust
- Believing something without having to see or touch it
- Having good reason for thinking something is true
- Taking God at His word
- Trusting God, even if you don't understand every thing He is doing

### What Belief is not

- A result of human effort
- Based on unfounded hope
- A feeling
- Characterised by doubt
- Needing to see or touch something in order to believe it
- Thinking something is true without good reason
- Understanding everything about God