
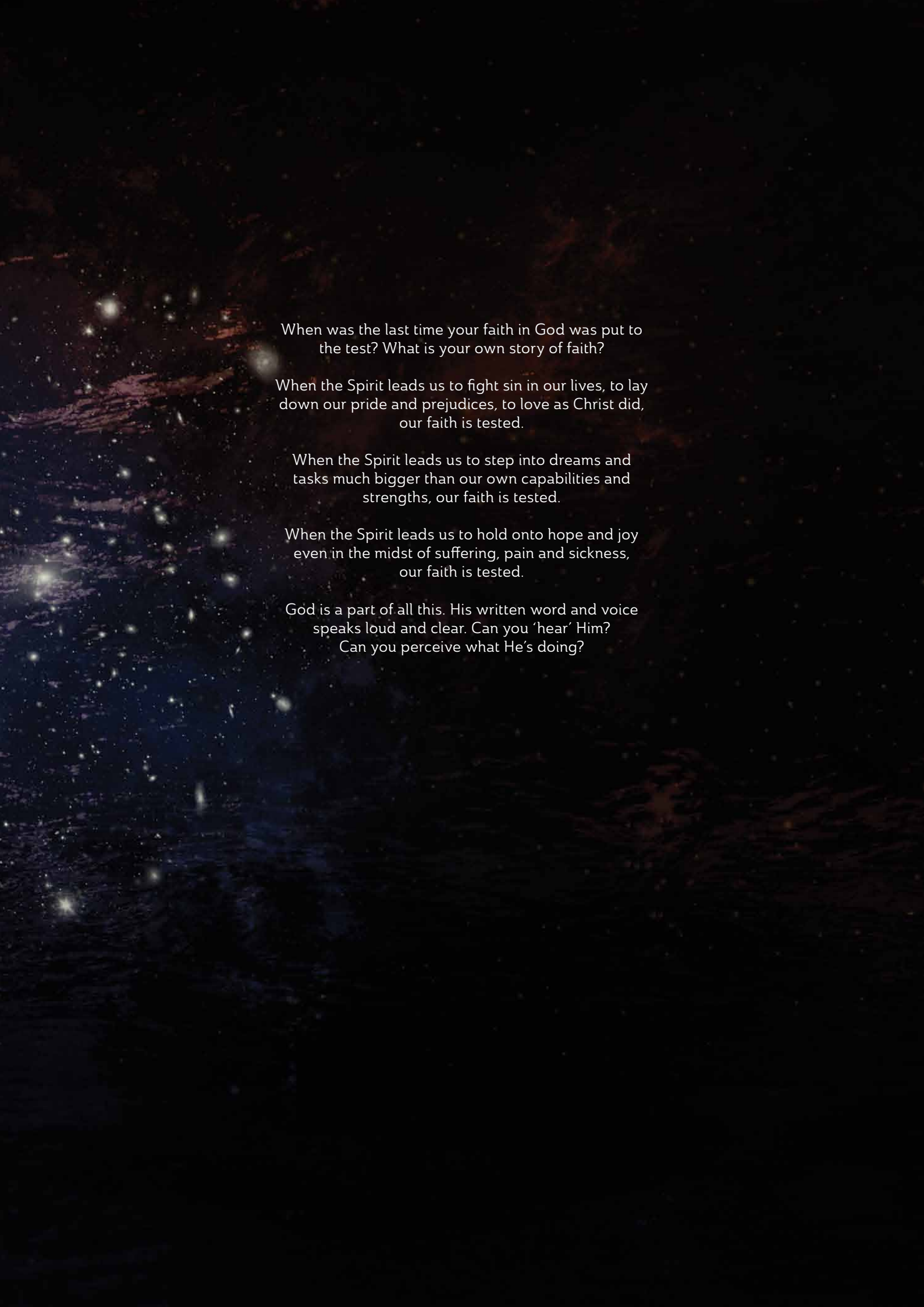


FACES 2016 : STORIES FROM YWAM SINGAPORE



FACES is an annual publication of YWAM Singapore. It is a collection of stories which tell a bigger story of what God has been saying and doing in the year.

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When was the last time your faith in God was put to the test? What is your own story of faith?

When the Spirit leads us to fight sin in our lives, to lay down our pride and prejudices, to love as Christ did, our faith is tested.

When the Spirit leads us to step into dreams and tasks much bigger than our own capabilities and strengths, our faith is tested.

When the Spirit leads us to hold onto hope and joy even in the midst of suffering, pain and sickness, our faith is tested.

God is a part of all this. His written word and voice speaks loud and clear. Can you 'hear' Him?
Can you perceive what He's doing?

THE REAL QUESTION

Learning to hear God's voice and developing a truly collaborative relationship with Him can take time. Even if we are able to receive the Word of the Lord, the real question is, how do we carry that Word? Why do we always need a fresh word from God, when we should be living out His life-giving Word in the scriptures?

We interviewed Maria Broersma, leader of the School of Biblical Studies (SBS) in YWAM Singapore for the past 20 years, on what hearing God means to her.

WHEN AND WHERE DOES HEARING GOD FEATURE FOR YOU?

The fundamental posture I try to adopt towards the Lord is submission to Him. If He really wants me to move, He'll let me know. And I can just trust Him to make that clear. Sometimes, if it's the good logical thing to do for Jesus, God doesn't have to tell you to go, He's already told you to. The scriptures say, "Go and make disciples," so that's what I do. My biggest struggles are not about where I should go, what I should do, how should I do it, but it's, "Oh God, make me like you."

THERE'S A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TAPPING INTO GOD'S WISDOM AND KNOWING THAT HE ALLOWS YOU TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR YOURSELF. HOW DO YOU KNOW WHICH TO EXERCISE?

God has given us a mind to think with, and it's amazing to know what it can do. But we can't be so amazed by it that we say, "We are smarter than God." But we can appreciate it and say, "I can think for myself. But every thought that I have must be submitted to His truth." I need to submit myself to His value-system and that's my challenge. It teaches us to: love your neighbour, submit to God, care for the poor, don't think of yourself more highly than you ought. This moderates my behaviour, and it's what discipleship is about – the transformation of my mind, from thinking my way, to thinking His way.

FOR YOU, GOD'S WISDOM IS IN HIS VALUE-SYSTEM, THAT'S ROOTED MORE IN THE BEING, THAN THE DOING. HOW DID HE IMPRESS THIS UPON YOU?

After completing SBS, I felt like I really learnt about God's grace, and in the midst of a disagreement with my parents, I assumed that they didn't really understand what His grace looked like. And God spoke to me very clearly, "Your parents know more about living the bible than you'll ever hope to know. It's not about how many scriptures you can quote about My grace. It's about actually living out My Word. So stop it with your criticism." Oh! It was so important for me to hear that! It was a humbling moment. I can't be complacent and think I've got it all figured out. I need to keep digging and asking, "Oh God, who are You? What do You like? How can I know You better? What areas in my life don't match up?"

HAVE YOU EVER ASKED THE QUESTION, "IS THAT REALLY YOU GOD?"

If it's a big decision that affects a lot of people, the appropriate response would be to approach it with some fear and trembling; to seek His direction. Scripture wisdom says, "No one of us bears all the wisdom of the world." So there's wisdom in many voices.

HOW DO YOU ALIGN WHEN INDIVIDUALS IN THE COLLECTIVE VOICE RECEIVE DIFFERENT WORDS FROM GOD?

We have to submit to one another, and not use hearing from God as a battery ram, to beat people into submission of what we think is the right way. We have to be careful about selfishness and be aware that the heart is desperately wicked. Scripture says that we're supposed to test what we're hearing from Him (does it match with the gospel), but not quench the Holy Spirit.

WHAT GRIPS YOU WHEN GOD SPEAKS?

When it comes to the Lord, I am absolutely ON, and a perfectionist. I'm hard on myself. So the thing that grips me the most is when I hear His grace. When I hear Him say, "I love you. You don't have to work so hard. You don't have to try so hard. You just have to receive My love freely." The other thing that moves me deeply is His Creation! It just blows me away! How smart and intelligent He is. How creative, how genius! And the thought that He made all of this for me!

FAITH IS SIMPLE

Faith is not something mystical or complicated. It is not merely wishing and hoping for something to happen.



Having faith isn't just a means to achieving our life goals or blessings. I have come to see that real faith enables us to grow; to be more like Christ, whatever the cost. The end goal is Christ glorified.

For many years, my faith was dead. I confessed I believed in Jesus but I wasn't living like I did. My young adult life revolved around being constantly anxious about job security, finances, my future marriage and personal enjoyment.

However, during a painful personal crisis, God caught my attention through His Word:

“RELIGION THAT IS PURE AND UNDEFILED BEFORE GOD, THE FATHER, IS THIS: TO VISIT THE ORPHANS AND WIDOWS IN THEIR AFFLICTION, AND TO KEEP ONESELF UNSTAINED FROM THE WORLD.”

James 1:27

I clearly saw how I was living a self-centered life. I knew I could no longer serve both God and money. It is simply impossible.

I eventually decided to take 6 months off from work to attend YWAM Singapore's Discipleship Training School (DTS). It seemed like a huge step of faith for me at that point. Foolishness in the eyes of the world, but I was determined in my heart to know whether Jesus was really the Lord of my life.

During DTS, God showed me how deeply I believed in the lie; that my value comes from my gifting and abilities, and how I had been striving to 'perform' out of my insecurity and pride.

God revealed His love to me over and over again. I was drawn in and there was no turning back. His love and freedom compelled me to follow Jesus

wholeheartedly. But this resolve was greatly tested after my DTS, when I prayed about joining YWAM as a full-time staff.

I left my auditing job and the financial stability it offered. I was also engaged at that point, but my fiancé and I soon discovered that our life values and direction had changed and differed too vastly.

God asked me, “If it were to cost you John (my fiancé then) to follow me, are you still willing?”

It was a painful process but I knew I had to put God first in my heart. Eventually, it was my fiancé who initiated the separation and God had already prepared my heart for it.

Within a year, I had done things I never imagined I would. I attended DTS, gave up my job, gave up a marriage, and joined YWAM Singapore. To most people, it would seem like the ultimate test of one's faith. But to limit our Christian faith to just making practical decisions about our career, finances or spouse would be to severely miss out on God's purpose for us.

But if faith is seeing who God is, believing it, and choosing to live like that is true, then everyday life is a test of our faith, and everyday I'm growing to be more like Christ.

Being in a missions-focused community like YWAM Singapore doesn't make me immune to the daily challenges of not taking offence, being more patient and forgiving others. God still leads me daily to lay down my pride and insecurities when working in a discipling community like YWAM. But allowing God to mould and work on my character is really a rewarding process.

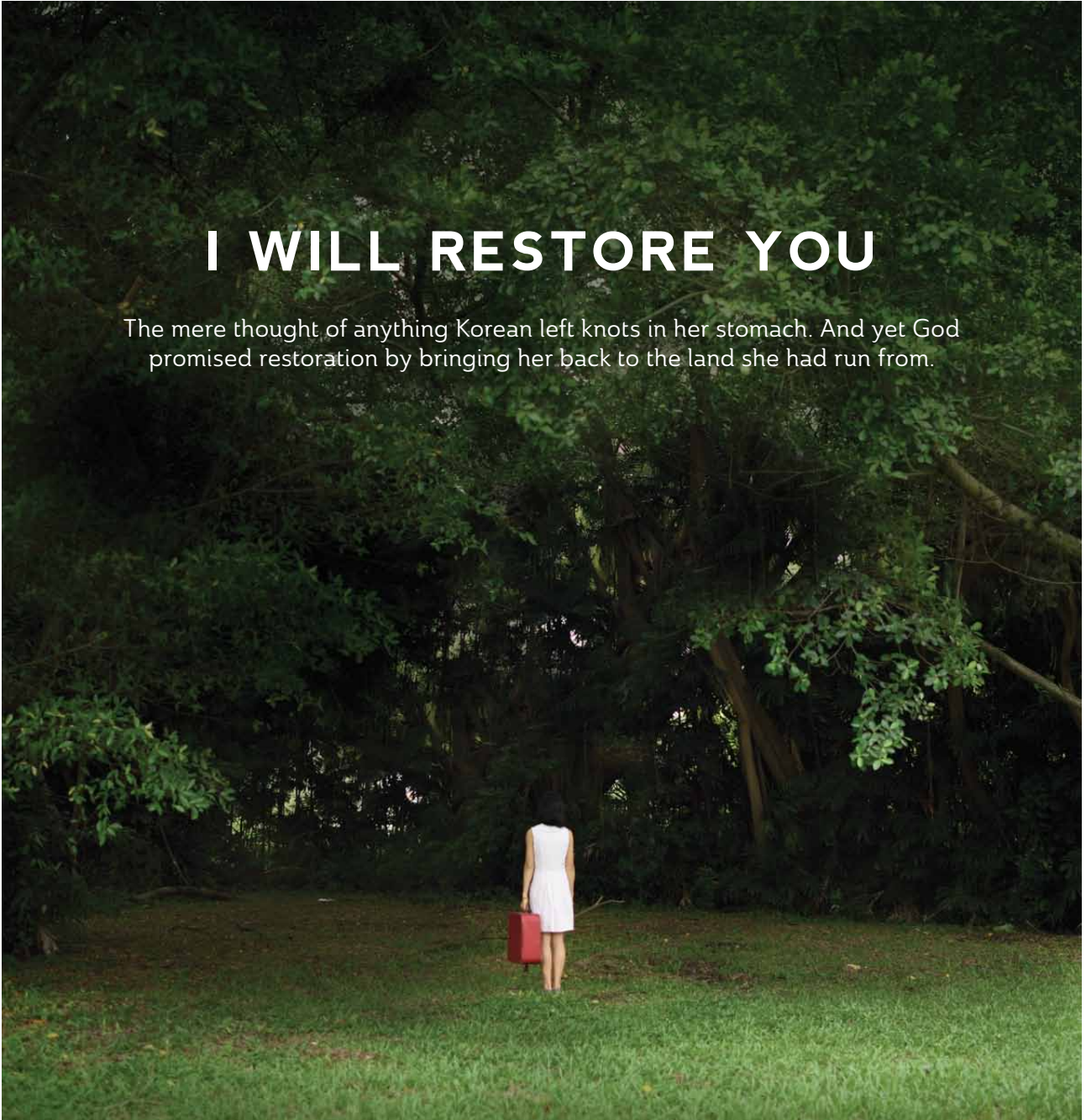
As I see and learn more about who God is, the more I am rudely confronted with the weaknesses in my character, and the more I desire to be like Him. I believe that's real faith. That is His purpose for us.

O Lord, help me have faith. Let everyday be more of You and less of me.

Si Jia has been serving in YWAM for a year and is faithfully waiting on the Lord for His leading.

I WILL RESTORE YOU

The mere thought of anything Korean left knots in her stomach. And yet God promised restoration by bringing her back to the land she had run from.



In his book, *An Army Rising*, Christ John Otto said,

**“EVERY LITTLE ‘YES’
OPENS DOORS TO OTHER
OPPORTUNITIES. EACH
OPPORTUNITY GIVES
US THE ABILITY TO FACE
ANOTHER FEAR, AND
EVERY TRIUMPH GIVES US
ANOTHER TESTIMONY THAT
REMINDS US THAT GOD IS
WITH US, IN US, AND FOR
US.”**

Michelle’s struggle with personal brokenness couldn’t be a better testament to this. Born in South Korea, affinity for her homeland has been plagued by memories of a 12-year parental abuse. Left to bear the burden of her father’s huge debt, her mother took her frustrations out on a defenseless 5-year old Michelle who was beaten every day without exception, till her skin was dyed hues of purple, green and blue. With her head perpetually bowed in shame, Michelle’s self-esteem, like a childhood washed away, was smashed out of the window.

The mere thought of anything Korean leaves knots in her stomach. But through a slow distillation process, God drew her out from the rubble that she tried desperately to hide and run away from. He drew her out to face her fear.

He called her home, back to Korea.

But God couldn’t move her forward if she didn’t say, “Yes”. She knew that the misgivings of her

birth country were hindering her from walking into the fullness of her destiny, and she couldn’t ignore it. Saying, “Yes” to God puts Michelle in a situation and circumstance she would never have chosen, but as Weilin, head of YWAM Associates told her, “It isn’t just about you when God brings you up a level. How deep you bring others with the Lord, is only as deep and intimate as you’ve experienced Him yourself.”

Learning to listen to, and then obey the Father’s voice has led Michelle into unexpected places and adventures she doesn’t always understand. When God first asked her, “Michelle, can you lay down your life for me in China?”, she experienced a presence so thick that her head was pushed down, and she couldn’t lift it till she acceded, “If this is what you created me for, then yes Lord.” Each agreement with the Heavenly Father has led Michelle to discover more of her true self, and cements her identity as a child who learns to trust in her Father.

God also spoke through others. When He sent 8 random people to confirm her call to Korea at the Hong Kong Gathering 2015, Michelle’s nerves, in her own words, “were shot”. “I know for sure that it’s God. But where do I go in Korea? What ministry do I do? How long am I going to be there? I have all these questions, but no answers.” But despite the deep fear and uncertainty, the knowledge that her life’s circumstances are guided through the hands of a loving Father led to a revelation. “It is the grace of God that He doesn’t answer right away. It’s during the waiting period that God nurtures and raises me to the level where I can accept what He has in store for me.”

With tears brimming in her eyes, Michelle acknowledges that, “God has never forsaken me. He never lets me down. He says that He’ll restore me and give me a family in Korea. Who am I? I’m such a nobody. But God sees the value in me.” And it is there that she casts her anchor, with a “Yes, and Amen.”

Michelle Shim recently moved back to Korea where she is trusting the Lord for her next steps. She is cheered on by her YWAM Singapore family.



I AM STILL FAITHFUL

In 1 Peter 1:7, Peter describes how trials will test the authenticity of our faith, like fire that purifies gold. Faith that is proven true is what our God longs for His children to possess.

Hudson and Grace met for their first date in the autumn of 2012 in Korea. Both their parents, who were close friends, had arranged for them to meet. As cliché as it sounds, it was 'love at first sight'. 3 months later, they married and Grace moved to Singapore.

Having children was always their desire. But when Grace had a miscarriage after barely just 5 weeks of pregnancy, their excitement and joy abruptly collapsed into shock. This sense of loss quickly went away as Hudson and Grace held onto hope for another baby in the future.

Months later, they were pregnant once again and hope was restored. But weeks later, during a routine visit to the doctor's, the baby was declared lost. This time, Hudson and Grace were deeply devastated. "Why? How? What did we do wrong? What's wrong with us?"

At that time, all they could think of was how they could have better protected the baby. "We didn't even consider asking God and putting Him in the center," Hudson confesses.

So is God still faithful even when a couple painfully loses a child not once, but twice? Maybe before all the heartbreak and loss, Hudson and Grace would have easily declared that 'God is faithful'. After all, they were missionaries. But even missionaries, or the best of us, when faced with suffering and trials, have to confront the genuineness of faith that endures.

"God was waiting for us to confess truthfully that He is good and faithful." Hudson describes the turning point for the both of them.

They found encouragement and comfort from their own families, their YWAM family and God Himself. Many words spoken to them challenged them to say, "Struggles are real, they're painful and heartbreaking. But that doesn't change who God is. That doesn't change His character and love for us."

In grief, pain and loss, Hudson and Grace found real faith; a faith that withstood the test of fire. "We had trusted in ourselves – that IF God is good and faithful, He will give us a child. It's not something we consciously speak about but it was the underlying lie in our hearts."

"GOD LOVES US SO JEALOUSLY AND WANTS US TO BELIEVE THAT NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS IN LIFE, HE IS STILL GOOD AND FAITHFUL."


4 months later, Hudson and Grace were pregnant again. Their faith was tested once more. "When we found out, we had immediate doubts. Is this one going to survive?" Hudson admits. Throughout the months, they battled between worry and holding onto God's faithfulness. "Am I not faithful? Am I not the good comforter and provider?" God would constantly remind them.

The baby grew well and strong throughout the pregnancy, and Grace's health remained good. Hudson and Grace also saw God's miraculous provision for all their hospital expenses. A friend of theirs was praying for them and God prompted her to give an amount of money, that turned out to be all that they needed!

On 11 November 2015, beautiful Liya Kim was born. With only deep gratitude and thankfulness, Hudson reflects upon the lessons learnt. "We overcame our struggles, encouraged by those who have gone ahead of us and walked in faith. Therefore, the future of Liya's generation depends on how we ourselves walk with God in faith, how we overcome our struggles, and how we encounter God and know His character deeply."

Hudson and Grace Kim have been serving in Singapore for 3 years and are excited about raising their precious daughter here in the YWAM family.

**YOU NEED
TO BE A
FAMILY**



That was God's command to YWAM Singapore in 2013 –
"Before I can give you a House, you need to learn to be a family."

"Aren't we already one God? We live together, eat together, work together. Isn't that enough?" we thought. Oh how far short we fall in our understanding of God's heart.

Family is about relationships – of unconditional love, acceptance and understanding, and about humility in being open and broken before one another. God wanted us to dig deeper; to have our relationships with one another tested, and our resolve to work through our struggles and differences strengthened.

In the past 2 years, we saw individuals and families battle through heartbreaking and trying situations. We saw our leadership and community challenged in our attitudes as we took on various tasks God had called us to do. These are just the beginnings for us in walking deeper as a family.

God longs to be known as a Father to all the world. He longs for us to walk as His children, and as brothers and sisters. That is truly worth fighting for.

SERVE TOGETHER

If Jesus threw a party in Geylang, what would it look like? Who would He invite? In April 2015, God spoke to YWAM about His dream - a carnival in the heart of Geylang where the street ladies, homeless, migrant workers and poor could come and be blessed. It was the longing of a Father for His lost children to come and meet with Him.

With only 12 weeks to prepare for a carnival that could host almost 2000 people, it seemed like an impossible task. There was no one yet to lead this event. But Wayne knew that the Jubilee Carnival was God's desire, not YWAM's. Through much prayer albeit hesitation, Wayne finally stepped up to take the lead.

However, Wayne was never alone. God immediately provided others in the family to help him answer God's call. "Joel, Joanne, Uncle Sebastian, and Siong Hung all volunteered to help. They were all much older and more experienced than I was. It was intimidating, but they were willing to submit. They loved me and I loved them too."

In just a span of 3 months, Wayne and his team repeatedly saw God work miracles and breakthroughs whenever they encountered an obstacle. And there were many.

They miraculously acquired the licence to use the grass patch, a large public space beside Aljunied MRT. It was routinely used for holding idol-worship events, but God wanted to redeem it. Despite every setback in the application process, Wayne and his team never doubted that God would provide the license.

God swiftly and amazingly provided for the Carnival through many people and churches. Wayne testifies, "God provided even before we knew what was needed." It was the very zeal of God to accomplish what He desired, that carried the whole preparation for the Carnival. "God isn't merely a leader or overseer. God is the Father of our family. He provides, protects, and guides, out of the love He has for His children," Wayne continued to observe as the event unfolded.

Everyone in YWAM came together to lend their support. This, as Wayne described, was a "wonderful practical expression" of being family. They were not obliged to help, but they did because they saw the Carnival as God's dream.

This is God's family, as Wayne puts it.

"BEING A YWAM FAMILY IS NOT JUST ABOUT WORKING RELATIONSHIPS. IT'S ABOUT BEING PRESENT FOR ONE ANOTHER, BECAUSE OF THE LOVE OF GOD."

Beyond YWAM, there were over 600 volunteers from more than 20 churches. As everyone served together, God showed Wayne a larger perspective. "I saw the body of Christ united in love, with no expectations of salvations. We never planned to openly evangelise, but God led many to salvation that day. Our intentions were united in the gospel, not preaching it, but making it practical. We met their physical, spiritual and emotional needs, and they walked away feeling valued, knowing someone cared for them."

So what does the gospel look like? "If you went down the stalls, good news looked like a hot dog bun, a haircut, a massage. It looked like a good conversation, time and attention; a place where they could feel loved and safe, and be treated with dignity and value," Wayne describes.

Every poor and broken person around us is wonderfully made in God's image, and He longs for each one to be a part of His family. So God sends us, His existing family - His church - to express that desire. When we do so, united as one, it truly pleases our Father, the One who called us to be a family.





GROW TOGETHER

"I am about to do a new thing." From the beginning, the Lord impressed upon the team, who had planned two previous GoFest events, to break away from how things were done before. This time, God wanted to focus on our own home - to 'take Jesus out' into the highways and byways of Singapore.

From the alleyways of Geylang to iconic landmarks like the Merlion Park, GoFest participants distributed more than 50,000 copies of the Bible, in 4 different languages, over a span of two weeks. Hundreds of believers also traversed across Singapore, sharing of Jesus through street evangelism, acts of mercy and artistic performances.

But the 'new things' that God was bringing forth went beyond what was accomplished during GoFest. It was His revelation on what it meant to be a "family" that was most impactful to the GoFest team.

How does the body of God work together, not merely as individuals in a team, but as a family unit? Judy, who was part of the GoFest team, reflected on how their habitual posture of seeking and hearing God together changed the meaning of family for her. She saw that one should never feel alone when making leadership decisions, and hearing God is never a solitary affair.

As Judy received a vision of a Jubilee Carnival for the street ladies, migrant workers, the poor and homeless, it was clear that God's dream was much bigger. It was an enormous task to undertake, but Judy knew she could share this vision with her YWAM family, and the burden of accomplishing it.

"For the first time, I felt like I could share something ambitious, and not bear the burden to make it happen. It was liberating and healing for me to know that I have this family who told me, "Judy, you don't have to take this on. God sparked this idea. He will raise the right person." They were right. God did so, and the rest of YWAM rallied their support at His big Jubilee party.

"We became a family of one heart and mind; a community that desires not just to hear God

together, but obey together. He honours that," Judy said.

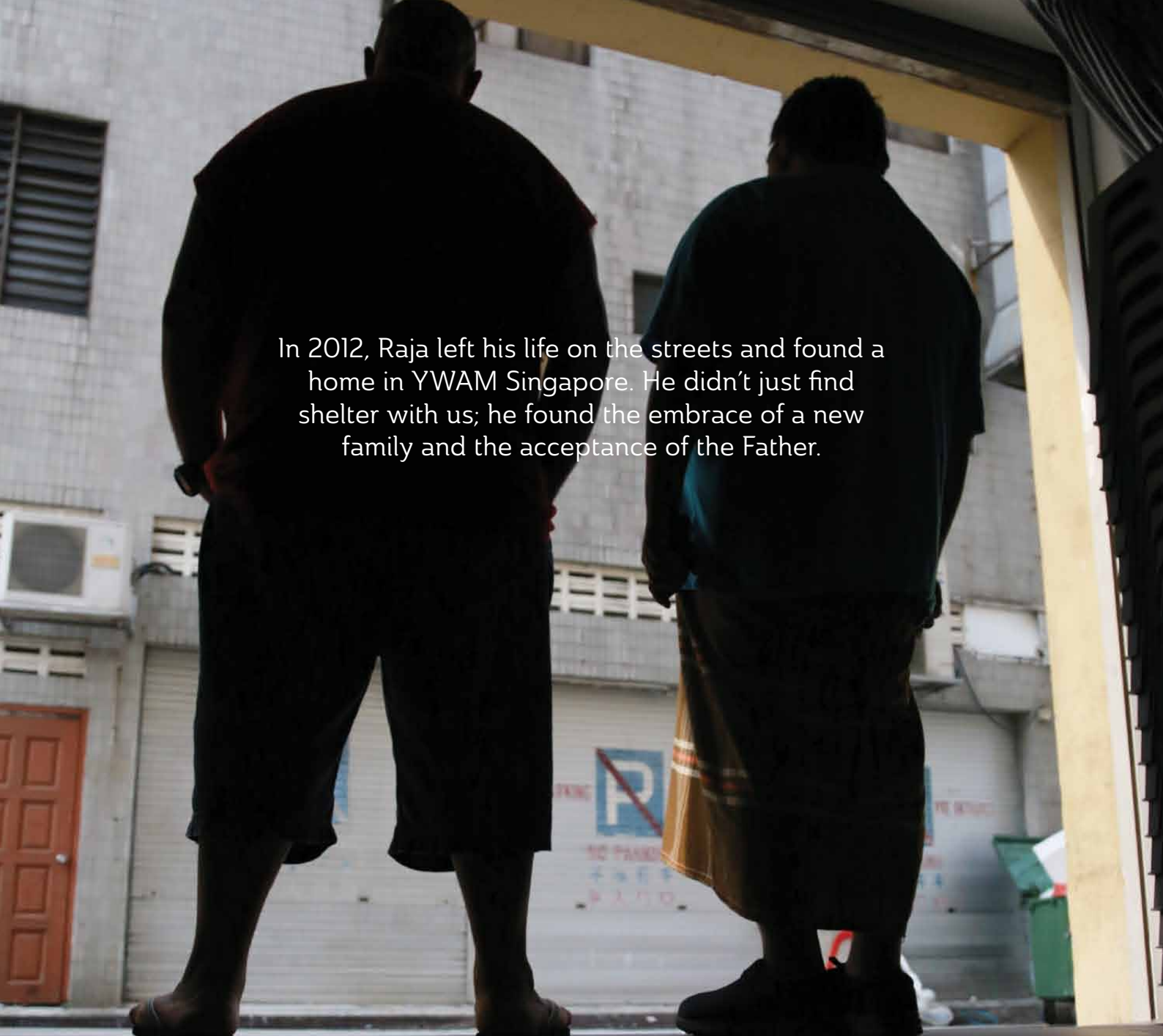
CONFLICT IS A DISCIPLINE
THAT GOD CAN USE
TO BRING HIS FAMILY
TOGETHER. IT'S THE
LABORATORY WHERE
HUMILITY IS SHAPED,
WHERE RELATIONSHIPS
ARE TESTED, AND WHERE
LOVE GROWS.

The process was not without conflicts but as Judy quipped "I learnt that when confronting and handling frictions, the level of maturity and security we have in ourselves and friendships is important."

Through conflicts and challenges, God carried them into a place of deep unification through sanctification. It was at times a painful and humbling process, but everyone understood that they belonged to something greater than themselves: a family in Christ, and despite their differences "no one ever doubted each other's good intentions to make things work". Judy saw how "the Holy Spirit would deliver the kind of agreement that gives strength to the body of Christ".

Theirs isn't the paragon of a perfect family. But theirs is a family who always chooses to honour the Heavenly Father. It is a family who recognises that God's plans must involve God. It is a family that continually seeks His counsel even over the littlest details. In the midst of this submission to Him, they learn to "walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called, with humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love." (Ephesians 4:1-2) Only then, will they exemplify the gospel to the world.

Judy Foo has led GO Centre for 9 years. It organises GoFest, an equipping and outreach conference.

A photograph showing two men from behind, standing in a doorway and looking out onto a street. The man on the left is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and dark shorts, and is barefoot. The man on the right is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a dark sarong, and is wearing dark shoes. They are both looking out at a street with a building in the background. The building has a red door on the left and a blue sign with a white 'P' in the center. The text is overlaid on the image.

In 2012, Raja left his life on the streets and found a home in YWAM Singapore. He didn't just find shelter with us; he found the embrace of a new family and the acceptance of the Father.

Uncle 'Raja' (not his real name), standing next to his roommate, best friend and brother in Christ, Lona.

We sat by his hospital bed and sang his favourite worship songs. We reminded him that his life is worthy to be celebrated. Like every family, we experienced the struggles of discovering our differences and worked them out in love. When Raja experienced it in God's family, he found new hope for reconciliation with his own biological family.

Raja's life and faith disciplined us in many ways. Despite his health problems and battle with cancer, Raja kept his joy and hope in Jesus. "I want to see Jesus!" he would say. His body suffered and health declined, but his faith in and longing for Jesus grew. There was no fear of death. Only

the fear of a life without Christ and the joy of a family.

Raja had wanted to become a missionary; one of his favourite jaunts was to visit his homeless friends by the bench he used to sleep on. He never stopped sharing the story of how he encountered Jesus to the lost. He was a true missionary. His life spoke the very hope and life of Jesus.

Uncle Raja returned home to Jesus in November 2015. He will always be fondly remembered in our hearts as an amazingly compassionate, big-hearted, humorous and brave man. Uncle Raja, we love you so much!

**WITH ME,
ANYTHING
IS POSSIBLE**

My name is Mercy but I never really understood 'mercy', let alone extending it to others.

After attending a DTS in YWAM Hong Kong, I had a burning desire to serve God in missions, to scale the mountains, and go to the ends of the earth for Him. Before returning to Singapore, someone told me, "To go up so high, you have to go so low". Unknowingly, I would hold on to these words years later.

Upon returning, a friend introduced me to Shu Hui (then leader of Tamar Village) and I shared with her my desire to serve full-time. To my surprise, she looked intently at me and said, "Not time yet. God wants you to get married. At the right time, the doors will fling open and you'll know." With peace, I decided to put missions on hold and return to the marketplace.

5 years later, I came across a documentary on anti-human trafficking and I felt a stirring in my spirit. My husband said, "It's time. What are you waiting for?" My immediate response was, "No, it's not time." The truth was, I enjoyed the marketplace and already had a good job offer awaiting me.

But God eventually got my attention when I attended a Christian concert. As they prayed for those called to human trafficking, an intense pain gripped my heart and God's message became clear, "It's time for you to leave." So I finally quit my job and joined Tamar Village full-time.

Sometimes God puts us in quiet seasons and we can't understand His ways. But when He finally reveals His plan, we know how to run with Him. I saw how 5 years of marketplace training was crucial in equipping me for ministry.

A while later I was asked to consider leading Tamar but I had reservations. I didn't want to lead for the sake of meeting a need, nor following what someone else 'heard from God'. I had to know what God desired. So once again, I waited.



On the day that I had to give an answer, I was flipping through one of my old journals when a piece of paper fell out. It read '10 things you want to do with God'. Down the list, in my own handwriting: 'God, if it's okay with You, I would like to work with prostitutes, drug addicts, and prisoners. I don't know how but it'd be great...'

God really knows how to get my attention! Many of these street ladies are a combination of all three! And here was God saying, "Didn't you say you will live for Me and go to the ends of the earth for Me? So decide now."

Since I took up the leadership role of Tamar Village, I've experienced street ladies who are rude, disrespectful, and unwilling to follow any rules despite receiving lots of help. "They don't deserve mercy at all!" I lamented in my heart. But God had to humble and break me.

"These are my precious ones. Don't you see what I see?" God said. As I struggled and faced these frustrations, I was confronted by the very substance of God's love. He loves tenaciously – not just the girls, but me too!

A woman with long dark hair, wearing a light blue and white striped shirt and blue jeans, is walking up a wide white ramp. The ramp has yellow diagonal safety stripes. She is looking up towards a large, modern building with a grey facade and vertical panels. A black lamppost stands to the right of the ramp, and a set of white double doors is visible on the building's exterior.

TO LOVE IS TO PERSEVERE

I AM EQUALLY
UNDESERVING, YET CHRIST
DIED FOR ME. I REJECTED
GOD SO MANY TIMES IN
MY LIFE, YET HE SHOWED
ME MERCY!

I saw how broken these girls were. How could I expect someone who had never experienced the love, care and discipline of a family to understand or receive it? Mercy without wisdom does not do any good. But when we love extravagantly, show grace exponentially, discipline graciously, and intercede passionately, we see a tremendous transformation that only God can bring about.

Mercy has served with Tamar Village for 2 years, and works alongside a dedicated group of staff and volunteers from all walks of life.

YOUR VISION IS TOO SMALL



Obedying and trusting God when you don't seem to have all the answers is never easy. It's the most humbling, yet intimate encounter one can have with our Creator, and Jeanette's missions-journey into Japan is just that.

We often present God with questions about our life and future and demand that He answers them our way. Afraid to make mistakes, we want to be in control, to know what is coming. The Singapore syndrome you may say. But it is ultimately fallen human nature.

Jeanette knew nothing about Japan, or had any interest in this nation. However when the devastating tsunami happened in 2011, God caught her attention. Months later, Jeanette found herself on an outreach team to Japan, where they visited tsunami-hit areas to pray.

There were mountains of debris and destroyed houses with remnants of furniture, books and toys. It was a dreadful feeling not knowing whether the people who once lived there even survived.

Yet, when confronted with such destruction, Jeanette found God's heart for Japan. In a nation where many Christians once lived but were martyred and the faith eventually faded, God showed her that He longs to heal and restore His people, not just physically. He was relentless in pursuing the Japanese; to restore the intimate relationship they had with Him.

In the following years, Jeanette visited Japan frequently on short-term outreach trips and Japan became more like home. She began to ask God, "Is Japan where you are calling me to? If yes, what do You want me to do? Who do You want me to serve?"

Jeanette wanted all these questions to be answered. She was ready to go, to be sent out, but she wanted to be sure. However, to her surprise, God said, "Lay down Japan. Your vision is too small."

Jeanette realised how she had been using her own human eyes to determine what was possible, what was 'safe' and good for her to do. But God had His own plans for Japan. It had to be His way, not hers.

A year later on another outreach to Japan, this lesson was finally impressed upon her heart.

Those same doubts came creeping in, but God said, "Lay all your questions down."

"But God, don't I deserve to know? Can I not ask?" Jeanette's initial frustration soon turned to a humbled response as she realised God's intentions. "God, it's okay I don't need to know. I'll trust in you."

God has His own way of revealing things, on His terms, and He did.

Throughout the trip, the message of an imminent swift change, a great harvest of Japanese people coming to the Lord, was echoed everywhere she went. Every believer she met shared the same excitement and urgency, "Japan's time is now." The churches were seeing hearts of the lost opening up, more and more people seeking for Truth and an unusual change in the government's stance towards Christian ministries.

Like pieces of a puzzle coming together before her eyes, it was as though God was saying "Do you see what I'm seeing and doing?" Jeanette's excitement grew, and with a burning desire in her heart she responded,

"GOD, I DON'T WANT TO VISIT ANYMORE, I WANT TO STAY." WITH FULL PEACE IN HER HEART, SHE KNEW IT WAS TIME TO GO."

All this while Jeanette had only been seeing her own plan and all its limitations. But God just wanted Jeanette to see what He desired and what He saw was possible, even if it was way bigger, because it's never about what we can do in our own ability. It's all about God's work, His way.

Jeanette no longer placed her trust in her own vision and limited capacity, but in God's promise and character. That's all she needed to step forward in faith, even if she didn't know all the answers.

Jeanette has served in GO Centre for 2 years. She is preparing to be a long-term missionary in Japan.

I WILL PROVIDE

When Loren Cunningham founded YWAM in 1960, he knew that God desired YWAMers to lead a life that fully relies on Him for financial provision.

Through the decades and across nations, YWAMers have given of their time and talents to God in missions without expecting any financial gain, and because of that, amazing testimonies of God's provision abound. This journey of faith is one that YWAM Singapore has walked as well.

For fifteen years (1980–1995), families and singles of YWAM Singapore moved from place to place, without a home to call our own. Then in 1996, out of obedience to the Lord's leading, close friends of YWAM Singapore purchased a building at 4 Geylang Lorong 9 in our name, as a permanent home. Nestled in the darkest part of Singapore – Geylang, this home was to be a place where potential missionaries are trained, refreshed and sent into all of Asia.

The vision for Asia was clear and big, but so was the housing debt – a total of S\$4 million (S\$3M bank loan and S\$1M interest-free loan). When the 1997 Asia financial crisis hit unexpectedly, the loan that was planned to be cleared in 5 years soon became an insurmountable mountain.

All financial commitments made to YWAM Singapore could not be fulfilled as most of our donors were badly affected. But God provided one businessman, who carried us sacrificially for the following 2 years, despite his own financial difficulty.

By the year 2000, YWAM Singapore began carrying her own load. For the following 13 years, it seemed like finances were trickling in like droplets of water. We never knew when the next donation would come or if we could pay the loan next month. Often we were left with only S\$5000 in our bank account, but every single time we rallied together in prayer, an unexpected gift would come our way and tide us over. The Lord was assuring us, "Trust me. Keep doing my work. You'll be fine."

With that, we continued to obey God's call faithfully and diligently; training, evangelising, discipling, and serving the churches, young people, and those in the marketplace. The lean years were truly years that taught us to remain generous despite having little.



That continued in 2010 when God called us to serve the street ladies, homeless, youths in the prisons, unreached people groups without medical care, and people hit by disasters. As we served and gave more of ourselves, God remained faithful.

Then in 2012, God said to us, "Because you care for the poor, I will care for you. Pay attention to the debt." What followed was breakthrough after breakthrough, miracle after miracle of God's provision.

In response to God's word about the debt, over 60 missionaries from YWAM Singapore, all with their own personal finances to raise, gave sacrificially and raised a total of S\$70,000.

Meanwhile, a church found out that YWAM Singapore was carrying a bank loan of S\$1.25 million at a whopping 6.95% interest, and assisted us to refinance that amount with a bank at a much lower interest rate of 2.5%. The church then donated the entire amount needed to cover that interest!

We continued to see generosity extended to us from all avenues. A friend gave a seed gift of S\$1,000. A couple gave their year's bonus of S\$100,000. On 9 August 2014 (the start of our National Jubilee), the person who loaned us S\$1 million, interest-free, in 1997 cancelled our remaining debt of S\$690,000! Friends and churches also continued to give generously.

Within 2 years, YWAM Singapore became debt-free on 31 October 2015! After 13 lean years of testing, being absolutely stretched in our dependence on God, He finally brought a miraculous breakthrough.

"REMEMBER HOW THE LORD YOUR GOD LED YOU ALL THE WAY IN THE WILDERNESS...TO HUMBLE AND TEST YOU IN ORDER TO KNOW WHAT WAS IN YOUR HEART, WHETHER OR NOT YOU WOULD KEEP HIS COMMANDS. HE HUMBLLED YOU...TO TEACH YOU THAT MAN DOES NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT COMES FROM THE MOUTH OF THE LORD."

Deuteronomy 8:2-5

YWAM Singapore belongs to God, and we are called to live our lives according to His ways. We are merely His stewards, entrusted with the responsibility to carry the vision and dreams in God's heart, to embody His presence to a world that is lost.

Therefore our faith journey of dependence on God's provision is His story, for His work, for His glory.

Joseph Chean is the National Director of YWAM Singapore. He has been in YWAM since 1997.



THE ROAD AHEAD

Change is a constant in life. Through the decades, YWAM has experienced change after change. Some come unexpectedly, at times bringing discomfort, struggle and pain. But some changes also bring forth new blessings, vision, and hope for the future. It's a road that constantly bends and turns, but with our eyes fixed on Christ, we know that God is leading us on the right path.

A major change to come will be in Jan 2019, when YWAM Singapore will move our premises to the Presbyterian Hub at Telok Kurau. The Presbyterian family is still in negotiation with the authorities and we continue to trust God for this provision.

Within a year of moving to Level 4 of KH PLaza, we outgrew the space. With more new schools being birthed, God directed us to expand our premises. Once again, change comes. But our God, who brings about change, also provides everything we need to embrace it.

Our current landlord, upon hearing about our mercy work in Geylang, graciously allowed us to rent the entire Level 5 to house more families, couples and singles from our staff and schools. He even contributed S\$50,000 towards our renovations and allowed us to stagger our rental deposit over 6 months! What favour from God!

Another new thing that God is bringing forth is in the area of training. YWAM Singapore's call has always been to raise up a harvest force of missionaries in Asia. Come April 2016, 2 new schools, the Community Development School and Foundations of Counseling Ministry will begin.

God, who sees far beyond what we can see, knows how to prepare us for the road ahead. In July, during our leadership prayer retreat, God spoke to us about making room for younger leaders. As we grow bigger as a family, the Father yearns to see young ones rise up boldly for His

kingdom, and elders stepping into their roles as spiritual parents.

Through two whole days of prayer, we sought the Lord on the next generation of leaders that will carry this mission. A group of 5 individuals were appointed and have now joined our current leadership team of 8. 3 of them are in their 30s – Wayne and Joel from Singapore and Hudson from Australia, while 2 are in their 40s – Joanne and Siong Hung from Singapore.

YWAM has learnt to embrace change with eyes of faith. Through changes, good or trying, we encounter a God who never fails to provide and guide us. It is always an opportunity to see God realign us to Himself and bring growth in our lives, both personally and as a family.

WHAT ARE THE CHANGES COMING YOUR WAY? DO YOU LOOK UPON THEM WITH HOPE OR TREPIDATION?

My prayer is that God, who is the anchor of our soul, grant you assurance, confidence and joy to face the road ahead. We look upward, fixing our eyes on Him who sees and knows all things.

Thank you for being a friend of God and for loving our YWAM family. Your generosity, friendship and presence have carried us further and deeper into fulfilling God's dreams for the nations. Thank you for being part of our story.

Joseph Chean
National Director, YWAM Singapore

2016 TRAINING CALENDAR

DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING SCHOOL (DTS)

The DTS is the foundational course of YWAM that seeks to bring you into a more intimate relationship with God. It also gives you an opportunity to discover your passions and your part in God's purposes for the world. The course is a full-time live-in program that consists of a 3-month intensive lecture phase, followed by a 2-month outreach to various nations throughout Asia.

SILK ROAD DTS 20 Mar - 26 Aug

Born out of the Back to Jerusalem movement, this school seeks to ride the anointing of what God is doing out of East Asia, taking the Gospel Westward toward Jerusalem.

MERCY DTS 20 Jul - 14 Dec

A DTS with a focus on mercy ministry and finding God's heart for the marginalised and disadvantaged in the streets, communities and nations.

CALEB DTS 20 Jul - 14 Dec

A DTS for the Caleb Generation (aged above 45 years) to help them finish their life's journey well, with renewed passion and purpose in God's Kingdom.

FINDING 4K SOLUTIONS 12 - 23 Sep

NEW

A new course created to compliment YWAM International's new mission focus and global Omega Zones structure (4K Zones). This intensive seminar is about finding solutions to a key question: "What needs to be done for ALL of an Omega Zone to have access to the Gospel and be saturated with transformational disciple-making ministries and movements?"

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

School of Biblical Studies (SBS) 27 Feb - 27 Nov

A 9-month full-time course that trains students to study in-depth, the entire bible through inductive observation and interpretation.

SBS Night School starts 15 - 19 Feb and thereafter runs 2 nights monthly until Nov.

School of Frontier Missions (SoFM) 1 Apr - 24 Jun

Be equipped and trained to take the Gospel effectively to unreached people groups. This is a 3-month school followed by a 9-month internship in Asia.

Foundations for Counseling Ministry (FCM) 1 Apr - 21 Aug*

NEW

A 5-month course aimed to introduce students to a Biblical framework for Christian counseling. *Includes optional 8-week outreach

Community Development School (CDS) 1 Apr - 26 Aug*

NEW

Explore the biblical approach to community transformation through discipleship of communities and sustainable development. * Includes optional 8-12-week field assignment

FOR MORE INFO VISIT www.ywam.org.sg



YWAM SINGAPORE

YWAM Singapore endeavours to
be a vibrant international discipling
community committed to raise a
harvest force for missions into Asia

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