



A testimony of

God's Faithfulness by Samuel Lim



It is with great joy that I am able to share this testimony

about what our Lord Jesus Christ has done for my family and in particular my father, Benny Lim Watt Hock. Truly this is a "God-Given miracle" as credited by a medical doctor in the TTSH team and not just by overzealous believers.

In April of 2007, I was asked to sign away my Dad's life by the ICU team in TTSH. He was admitted to the hospital when he had great difficulty in breathing. He suffered from liver cirrhosis, pleural effusion, ascites, edema (swelling of the body with water that the liver can't keep in the bloodstream). His belly was swollen up and water had reached his lungs and we went to tap and drain the water out for temporary relief. He was in a poor state of health and contracted pneumonia in the hospital which caused him to be what the ICU team considered "brain dead" and was put on a mechanical ventilator to keep him alive. They said he was in critical condition and the end point was the same if we let him go now or do a tracheostomy on him (cut his throat open to put in a permanent tube).

It was then that my family decided to inform our extended family to have a last look at my Dad. My Cousin Joseph and his family, though overseas, came to see us. They reminded me "Nothing is impossible to God's name" and to hold on to life and for a miracle. They invited Pastor Leslie from AMKMC to pray for the healing of my father. His presence there was calming. I accepted the healing in faith on behalf of my family. Family friends, Uncle Stephen and Auntie Pearlle also bolstered our faith by coming to the bedside and asking God for a miracle.

The next few days saw the doctors slowly weaning down the breathing machine but the more they did so, the better my Dad's breathing became. And on the day where he was slated for the tracheostomy if we had opted for it, he was clapping his hands as they removed the tube. God had defeated pneumonia for my dad! The doctors said it could not be the antibiotics they administered because if they were to have worked, they would have much much earlier. The recovery is a "God given Miracle!"

In the days and months that followed, I had been telling people everywhere I met about the miracle that God had blessed my father with. People were impressed but at the

same time I asked God for a five star, blockbuster ending to this ordeal. What my Dad needed was a new liver. Although blessed to be alive, he was still suffering from the symptoms. Every month, we would be in the hospital for a week or two to tap out the water when he swelled up again and was breathing hard. When people asked how was my Dad then, I told them that but I was also sure God is in control. We faced another visit to the ICU for the same reason but this time God was not going to lead us into the test. The antibiotics worked almost immediately and we were transferred back to the normal ward in a few days.

2007 was a trying year for my family in terms of emotion and finances. People even thought I was a hospital staff having seen me around so often. Both my mum and I looked after my Dad fulltime. I realise now we were walking in days of grace and I thank God for carrying us through. We had a happy Christmas and a beautiful start to 2008 together as a family in Prayer! We trusted God to bless us with what we need and I felt an overwhelming sense of peace that moved me to tears that New Year's night.

11'For I know the (A)plans that I have for you,' declares the LORD, 'plans for (B)welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a (C)hope. Indeed, our Lord is the author and finisher of faith. And who could have written the script any better. The new Liver came on good Friday!

We received the call, rushed to NUH. God oversaw the surgeons perform an eight hour cadaveric transplant successfully. In the eight months so far my Dad has been improving steadily by the healing grace of God and I have full faith that God will restore him to full health to proclaim His Glory!

There are many instances in between where God's favour and mercy were so blessedly evident too. I hope to tell you more about what I have seen our God can do. Thank you for your prayers and your love. What He has done for my family, He can do for you today!



Samuel Lim is a regular worshipper at AMKMC.

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About Us

The Journey, official newsletter of Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church, was launched in December 2004. This monthly publication is dedicated to serving the needs of the people by the people.

Serve with us

We are looking for people within the church who want to serve God with their talents. If you're a budding or professional writer, reporter, designer, photographer or layout artist, we're looking for you! You should also be:

- Passionate about Jesus and love AMKMC
- A regular participant of a cell group in AMKMC
- Willing to work in a team

Email us now at thejourney@amkmc.org.sg!

Write to us!

Tell us what you love, or love less about The Journey, and what you'd like to see more of! We also welcome your God-glorifying testimonies, so feel free to email us. We'd love to hear from you!

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UP-COMING EVENTS

Fund Raising Funfair

Date: 15 Aug 2009
Time: 9am – 5pm
Venue: AMKMC
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Church Wide Corporate Prayer Meeting

Date: 19 Aug 2009
Time: 8.00pm
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary

Mid-Week Bible Study

Date: Weekly starting 6 Aug 2009
Venue: AMKMC Sanctuary
Speaker: Rev Dr Gordon Wong

Ang Mo Kio



The Methodist Church in Singapore.

Methodist Church



THE JOURNEY

Refreshed

JULY 2009

M.I.T.A.(P) 01/08/2007

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ANG MO KIO METHODIST CHURCH

True Christianity – A reflection

By Amos Chua

"Are you a Christian?" Most people who are reading this would probably say that they are. They claim that they have heard the gospel and have come to believe in Jesus.

The truth, however, is that there are many versions of the gospel which look and sound almost similar. Some people emphasise only on truths, that they become judgmental and do not show love to those in need. On the other hand, some people emphasise on love, so much so that they have watered down the message to seek the person's approval and favour, pleasing man first, rather than God.

This definitely would not be beneficial as it might confuse the older Christians, stumble those who are growing, and mislead the younger ones. A right message would result in a genuine faith. Likewise, imitation message would result in imitation faith. This sharing that I am writing today does not cover the entire "right" message as a whole. However, it sheds some light to one of God's character that we fear speaking about - God, The Judge.

Sometimes, God is portrayed as Mr Nice Guy. A person can sin and carry on sinning, and all it takes is to apologise and ask for forgiveness for his sins. It is true that God does forgive sins, but the Bible does not portray Him to be as such a "Mr Nice Guy". The Bible says that God is the

"judge of this earth" (Gen 18:25) who will one day bring every act to judgement, hidden or not (Ecc 12:14).

The book of Isaiah is one that records how Isaiah was tasked to speak and to bring God's judgement over Israel - God's chosen people. It also talks about God's standard and power for salvation, that is, that prophesy of His Son, Jesus Christ. In Isaiah 1:1-9, Isaiah records God's view of His people's moral condition, and why judgement was necessary. He started off in v.2 by calling creation to be witness even as the Lord speaks.

God was speaking to His children. These are the people who were delivered from Egypt, given a promised land, and even had first-hand experiences of God's manifestation. However, they were not grateful. They were even compared to be worse off than ox and donkeys.

They have abandoned the Lord, despised the Holy One of Israel, and have turned away from Him. Other gods and other things have been allowed a place in their lives and thoughts, and His ways are being ignored and set aside. "Offspring of evildoers" is what the Bible writes in contrast to God's intent for them to be His offspring. No longer a 'holy nation' but a sinful one.

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Isaiah continues by describing their condition. From their head to the sole of the feet, they are people who are sickly and untended. Not only do that have bruises, welts, and raw wounds, they were left untended. It was not cleansed, bandaged, or even soothed with oil. Their country was also under invasion from strangers, burning the cities and devouring their field. Yet they still carry on with their rebellion towards God, not wanting or looking for help whatsoever.

By the standards which God had laid out in the Old Testament, what Israel deserved is total destruction, similar to the judgement of Sodom and Gomorrah. The nation would have been like that, if God had not preserved a few. It is not as though Israel do not know God. They have been burnt offering sacrifices of rams, cattle, bulls, lamb, or goats. Neither were the people stingy, they multiplied their sacrifices to God.

God had had enough. They were meaningless and unacceptable to Him. He takes no pleasure in these sacrifice. "Hate", a strong expression, was used to express how God felt towards Israel actions and their sacrifices. They were merely an outward act with no inner significance, even towards acts that seems so religious. They have, in fact, become a burden to Him. God is even weary of bearing them.

To an extent that even when they spread their hands out in prayer, God refuse to hear them. The people of Israel have been disobeying God's standards and living their lives by their standards. Without moral response and behaviour, without love for Him and obedience to His laws, all religious ordinances are in vain.


But God, in His grace and mercy, still made a way for Israel to be spared from judgement, that is, repent of their actions (v.16-17) and obedience to Him (v.19). He came down to their level to reason and to explain to Israel about their actions. He is both just and loving.

Showing mercy on those who obey, and giving judgement on those who refuse and rebel.

Gen 3:5-6 teaches us that sin a rebellion against God. It is to live independently with no regards for God, be it in knowledge or actions, like how the people of Israel is described in Isaiah. Throughout this passage, God was not implementing that salvation comes from works. Without our love for Him and obedience to His laws, all religious activities are done in vain, to an extent that it might even displease God.

Their response, likewise as ours, should be wanting to please Him out of our love to Him and what He has done. God gave His Son Jesus to take away the punishment we deserve. That is mercy. Not only that, He gave eternal life to those who believe in Him, the Lord and Saviour. That is grace.

We would have been like Sodom and Gomorrah, if not for God's working and intervention. Jesus Christ have already taken our place of eternal damnation. But have we been living our lives that continues to despised Him? A continual turning away from His laws?

Let me end with the same question I had asked in the beginning. "Are you a Christian?" Even the demons believe in God and tremble with fear (James 2:19), what about us? 



Mr Amos Chua worships at 9:15am service and serves actively in the cell ministry.

Contact Jessica at
auntjess@gmail.com



The Journey, a monthly newsletter, contains testimonies, teaching, write-ups, ministries features and stories that remind us of God's amazing grace and how He has worked in our lives. The Journey also challenges our Christian faith to greater good works.

Common Requirements

- Must be passionate about Jesus and a willing heart to serve
- Must be a regular dedicated participant within a Cell Group in AMKMC
- Must be willing to work in a team

Your job involves taking pictures and providing coverage for major church events, specialised projects. Experience in photography is an advantage and owning a digital camera is a requirement.

Photographers

You will assist in producing articles for publications. Areas may involve writing/searching for teaching articles, interviewing and reporting on major church events.

Writers

You will be placed in charge of selecting & formatting articles. You will also be responsible for liaising with our church printers for printing. Our software environment is Adobe Indesign & Photoshop. Knowledge in this area is required. If not, a willing heart to learn is required.

Layout Designers

Your job involves receiving and editing articles to be put published.



Editors



Fundraising Funfair

Saturday 15 August 2009
10am - 4pm

Funfair event is part of Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church re-development plan and all funds raised in this event will be channelled to the church redevelopment fund. For enquiries, please call 64522791.

all are welcome!



We praise and thank God for His gracious providence for our church as we embark on the journey to redeveloping the church building. Here are the latest figures:- Statistics from bulletin dated 7 Jun 09

No.	Title	Amount	Remarks
a.	Target Amount to be raised >	\$7 million	
b.	Total No. of People Pledging >	551	
c.	Total Amount Pledged >	\$1,782,099.13	
d.	Actual Amount Received from pledges>	\$1,703,553.11	
e.	Previous Donations Received>	\$529,795.59	> Funds rec'd from members & friends over last 2 years.
f. 2008 Events:-			
1.	Movie (Jun08) >	\$22,390.00	
2.	Golf Game (Aug08) >	\$165,600.00	>Balance of \$34,400/- being pledges to be received over 2009 & 2010.
3.	30th Anniv. Dinner (Oct08)>	\$18,292.30	>From Sponsors & Table Sales
4.	Commemorative Book >	\$34,040.00	
5.	Movie (Dec08) >	\$7,050.00	
6.	Sale of 2009 Calendars >	\$35,610.00	
7.	Sale of Food Items >	\$1,630.00	
g. 2009 Events:-			
1.	Fund Raising Dinner 2009>	\$245,742.66	
2.	Sale of Food Items >	\$6,400.00	
3.	Donations from cells	\$895.00	
TOTAL AMOUNT RAISED TO DATE (d,e,f & g)>		\$2,770,998.66	

- **Pledge towards the church redevelopment.**
 - Pledge envelopes can be obtained from our information counter after service each week. You may also contact the church office for more details.
- **Fundraising Fun fair (Aug 2009)**
 - This is a great opportunity to include your friends and family! Invite them for the carnival and have a great time building relationships while giving to build the house of God!
- **Music CD for sale (Nov 2009)**
 - Start saving for Christmas! Our AMKMC maiden album with our very own musicians and composition, as well as your old-time favorite hymns will be ready for purchase in November 2009. Spread the cheer and the message of God's love through music to your family, friends and colleagues this Christmas!
- **One time donations**
 - You can also get a donation envelope from the ushers and drop it into the offertory bags or send in your cheque to the Church, making it payable to "Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church (TRAC)" and indicating at the back that it is for the Church Redevelopment Fund.

And if you're wondering how else you can contribute, here are some ideas and upcoming events for your prayerful participation: