

Pastoral Letter to the Ang Mo Kio Methodist Church Family (30 September 2021)

Dear Family and Friends of AMKMC (TRAC),

Penning this pastoral letter leaves me with a bittersweet feeling.

Initially, we were joyfully looking forward to this Sunday as we celebrate God's faithfulness to AMKMC (TRAC) for the past 43 years. Many of us would have been happy to welcome our beloved former Pastor-in-Charge TRAC President Rev Stanley Chua back home over a wonderful time of fellowship. We even previously encouraged home gatherings of 5 pax for a more meaningful time of fellowship and worship together. Alas, our anniversary worship service will be a more muted affair given prevailing government regulations and recommendations, and surely home gatherings of 2 pax is not as meaningful. Nonetheless, we trust God to move and inspire us in surprising ways whether we are worshipping onsite or online through our livestream service.

Despite the muted celebratory tone, with several wonderful testimonies arising from our 43rd Anniversary Prayerthon, we are launching a 43Hours Prayer Throne, which is a continuation to our Church 43rd Anniversary Prayerthon via Zoom platform (the Zoom link will be sent out via [Whatsapp Broadcast](#) in due course). Everyone is invited to participate, as you are able.

Here are the details:

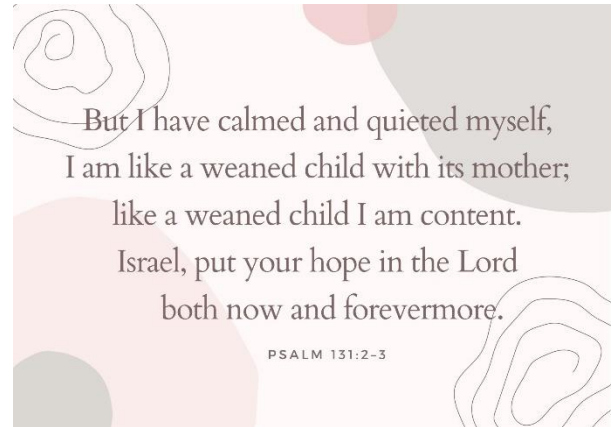
1. **1Hour Prayer Throne from 4 to 29 October 2021 (Monday to Friday)**
Day Prayer Throne: 1-2pm (via Zoom)
Night Prayer Throne: 8-9pm (via Zoom)
2. **2Hours Prayer & Praise (43HPT Edition)**
Wednesday, 20 October 2021, 7.30 pm to 9.30pm
3. **3Hours Prayer Throne** (giving thanks and praise to God for 43 years)
Saturday, 30 October 2021 from 2pm to 5pm

While I delight in urging us to grow in prayer, what is rather difficult for me is to announce that we will not allow seniors above 60 years to serve as volunteers for the entire month of October, in line with the government's effort to reduce exposure for our beloved seniors. If you are a senior in this age bracket, please know that we deeply value you and your ministry unto the Lord, and that we are simply doing this out of genuine love and concern for you and that this directive is merely temporary.

While this directive is difficult for you and also for me, as I prayed, I discerned this may be a great opportunity for those of us who are younger to serve and honour our seniors by taking over their mantle for this season. Truth be told, a lot of our volunteers are above 60, and maybe this is God's nudge for those who are younger to step up and step out to serve. Therefore, I urge as many of us younger ones who are fully vaccinated – including youths – to volunteer to serve in the wide array of services and ministries available, especially as safe distancing ambassadors and welcome ministers outside of your usual worship service timings.

As I conclude, I would like to remind us of Psalm 131:2–3:

Psalm 131 is part of the Song of Ascents. Likely to be compiled after the Babylonian exile, these psalms capture the bittersweet feelings of the pilgrims as they climbed up the mountain towards Jerusalem for worship. On the one hand, they were reeling from the devastation from the exile; on the other hand, they were looking towards God for restoration. Ps 131, in particular, comes to this calm posture of learning to trust in the arms of our Beloved God even whilst external circumstances are not yet entirely comprehensible.



May we all continually put our hope and trust in our Heavenly Father as we journey through this difficult season together.

Yours sincerely,



Rev Anthony Lee