

## PRAYER NEEDS

### DG LEADERS' RETREAT (29 February, 9.30am-1.00pm @ Chapel 2)

Pray for:

- \* Fruitful and encouraging time of fellowship among the leaders, as we review the year and evaluate the ways our Discipleship Groups can grow.
- \* The DG Committee as they plan and prepare for this retreat.

### INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP

- \* We are thankful to God for keeping the brothers and sisters warm and diligent in worship. More are regularly attending worship in ZS.
- \* During this period of meeting suspension may God help us to continue engaging these brethren, encouraging them to stay close and faithful to the Lord.
- \* May God grant health protection as they carry out their daily tasks at LKH.

### CHILDRENS MINISTRY

May God:

- \* Encourage children and their parents to look to God for protection during this time and to rely on Him for wisdom and strength to face this uncertain time.
- \* Help our church to continue to be able to provide a safe environment for all children who are keen to attend our children's programmes during this time.
- \* Heal the children in our midst who are unwell and have stayed away. May He watch over them and their families always.

## Church News & Activities

### NOTICE TO ALL

#### SAF Special Talk: Managing CPF Money for Retirement (before & after)

Which was scheduled on 29 February will be **postponed** until further notice at the request of the Institute for Financial Literacy.

### DG Leaders' Retreat

29 February, Saturday, 9.30am-1.00pm  
Come for a blessed time of refreshment and fellowship! RSVP with Dness April or contact Church Office 62841987.  
by 22 February. (Lunch is provided)

### Church Camp

13-17 June 2020 (Saturday-Wednesday)  
Camp registration is open at the Fellowship Hall or register online at <https://tinyurl.com/zschurchcamp20>  
Early bird fees end on 29 February.

### Covenant Bible School: The Biblical Storyline (by Dr Brad Matthews)

8-Thursdays beginning **5 March** 2020 (not 5 May as previously announced)  
Course Fee \$150 + \$40 for textbook  
Sign up online at <http://www.covenantbibleschool.org/register> latest by 29 February. For inquiries, approach Elder Wendell or Dness April or contact Church Office 62841987.

### Deepest Condolences to...

**Mr & Mrs David Cheng, and family** (ZMS) on the Home-going of David's father, **Mr Cheng Eng Kan** on 6 February 2020.

## MINISTRY SHARING BY MISSIONARY REBECCA LEE

### Crisis Time: Growing Time

Joshua James, my 14-month old nephew (late born to the Lees but a most precious addition) has started head-shaking, and standing without any support. Each week, such 'reports' in the family chat group are greeted with 'oohs' and 'ahs' by his 3 aunts, as with eagle-like eyes we note every leap he makes in skill.

While a pale comparison, might that not be how God waits and watches over us, longing to see us grow to be more like Christ? Christlikeness hardly seems talked about nowadays, but what else best describes our walk as disciples? Our journey started with each of us being uniquely created by God, then called to Him by His sacrifice for us, hence giving us the right to be called Christians, to be new persons who continue to grow and reflect Him in our lives and towards others.

I wasn't there in Singapore when SARS hit in 2003, but did encounter a heat scanning machine when I returned at the tail end of the epidemic. Once again, as the alerts for Coronavirus is at the 2<sup>nd</sup> highest level, I'm away from Singapore. As I am inundated by news of all kinds, I can only marvel at how Singapore has grown in her capacity to handle this new situation. Nonetheless, the fear is palpable. Death is indeed the great reality that wealth and health cannot keep away; nor the government. Our government is not God; thank God indeed it **is not** Only God is!

The Chinese phrase for 'crisis' is made up of the words *danger* (wei) and *opportunity* (ji); can the present danger be turned into an opportunity for growth in Christlikeness? Where there are pointless jokes, mockery, rejection, condemnation and xenophobia, do we join them, or do we turn our backs on the ugliness and lay ourselves before God in prayer, pouring out our fears and our irrational thoughts to Him? We are merely imitating the One who pleaded and wept in the Garden of Gethsemane because of the fearsomeness of the cross.

Where there is panic and confusion, could we stand still and be a voice (even if trembling) of calm, pointing others to look to Him for hope and peace (1 Cor 14:33). Then we are also being like Jesus, who restored the ear of the soldier that Peter cut off as that impetuous disciple responded in fear; And who, from the tortured vantage point of the cross, pointed out Mary for John to take care of.

Finally, Christlikeness happens in community (even social media type), so as we gather in His name (Matt 18:20), why don't we sow seeds of encouragement and reminders to look to Him, instead of fuelling unhealthy conversations and images.

Christlikeness keeps before us Jesus Christ walking towards the cross in a steady gaze and gait, unlike everyone else around Him because He was focussed on obeying and doing the will of the Father. If we learn to rest and trust in God's sovereignty, looking only to the One who knows exactly when the crisis will be over, and how long are our days on earth, the becoming is on the way.