



40TH ANNIVERSARY
PUBLICATION

1983 - 2023

INTRODUCTION

40th Editorial Team

We give thanks to God for preserving and guiding His church in London these past forty years.

Forty years is a substantial amount of time.

When we think about Moses, his life too was divided into three forty-year periods (Act 7:23, 30, 36).

Now Moses was tending the flock of Jethro his father-in-law, the priest of Midian. And he led the flock to the back of the desert, and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. (Exo 3:1)

The middle forty-year period was a key turning point for Moses. This was after spending forty years in the palace learning all the wisdom of the Egyptians, being mighty in words and deeds. It was at a time when he thought he was ready to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt that God allowed him to spend forty years in Midian.

This forty year period of living in Midian as a shepherd, trained Moses to become humble and patient. He was transformed from being impulsive and self-confident to relying fully on God to carry out the work of leading the Israelites to the promised land. This process was essential in becoming the faithful servant in all of God's house (Heb 3:2). For us today, we can ask ourselves, have we ascended to Mount Horeb to be taught and disciplined by God to become a faithful servant in His house? While we may have been educated more than our parents and grandparents before us, we must realise that humility and submission to God and also to one another is most important (1 Pet 5:5-6).

Now it was so, when Moses came down from Mount Sinai (and the two tablets of the Testimony were in Moses' hand when he came down from the mountain), that Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone while he talked with Him. (Exo 34:29)

In leading the Israelites through the wilderness journey, Moses was able to draw near to God and talk to Him because of his holiness. He ascended to the mountain and had deep communion with God. From this close relationship with God, he was able to be led by God in order to lead the people in the way they should go.

In our spiritual cultivation and service to God, do we often take time out to draw near to God and have deep communion with Him? Without cultivating a close relationship with God, our service

to God will not be pleasing to Him.

I am not able to bear all these people alone, because the burden is too heavy for me. If You treat me like this, please kill me here and now—if I have found favour in Your sight—and do not let me see my wretchedness! (Num 11:14-15)

This journey was not without its challenges and testing moments, even to the point that Moses pleaded with God to take his life. But God did not rebuke Moses for this, instead gave him co-workers to help him in this work.

As we serve in His holy temple today and in our own faith journey, we too may face seemingly insurmountable challenges where we may want to give up. But let us be encouraged and remember what God said to Moses:

So He said, "I will certainly be with you." (Exo 3:12a)

Likewise, the Lord our God will certainly continually and faithfully guide us each and every step of the way.

Then the Lord said to him, "This is the land of which I swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, saying, 'I will give it to your descendants.' I have caused you to see it with your eyes, but you shall not cross over there." (Deut 34:4)

At the end of Moses' life, God allowed him to see the land which He swore to give to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob - the promised land. This was after all 120 years of his life being taught and led by God. Likewise for us, we all have a journey ahead of us to walk on, we need to strive and long for the heavenly kingdom, the promised land that God has promised to give to us.

In these next forty years and until the Lord comes, may we strengthen, encourage and edify one another, abounding in the work of the Lord.

This publication is to commemorate the past forty years of the True Jesus Church in London, to reflect, give thanks to God and to encourage one another to continue to build up the house of the Lord. May God continue to abide with and strengthen us all as we draw nearer to His blessed appearance on the last day.

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HISTORY

Having gone through 40 years of peace, tribulations and challenges, the True Jesus Church in London stands as a point of refuge for many members, travelling in and out of London. But how did the church come to where it is now? In this segment, we reflect and give an account over the history of the TJC in London.



HISTORY OF LONDON CHURCHES

40th Editorial Team

EARLY BEGINNINGS

The True Jesus Church in London first began to hold gatherings in the late 1950's. The student who started and organised the first prayer was our Deacon Paul Wong. Since November 1966, our members in London had been holding regular services on Saturdays and Friday nights.

Services were held across London: in Chiswick from October 1970; in Bounds Green from July 1972; and in Holloway from November 1975.

From April 1976, services were conducted on the 2nd floor of Tin Tin Restaurant in Wardour Street in Chinatown which was owned by our late Sister WK Liu. The number of attendees was between 25 to 30. Regular family services were also held at members' houses. One of the notable venues of services was the Notre Dame Hall at Leicester Square in the West End where services were held from 7th March 1981. Over 30 members attended the services regularly.

PITFIELD STREET

From the Spring of 1981, the suggestion of purchasing our own church premises in London was given much consideration. By the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, a building belonging to the Salvation Army

at 194 Pitfield Street was found and bought with much financial aid from members in Edinburgh, Scotland. On 27th November 1982, we finally moved into our church building. There were over 250 members from the UK and overseas attended the dedication.

From then on, London Church experienced many wonderful blessings from God. Members of the TJC from other parts of the world, who came to London to further their studies, provided much assistance in the divine work. Though each time the students left after they had finished their studies, God somehow provided another batch of students to study in London. Thus, the work and the progress of the church have never been halted, in spite of the "high mobility" of the members.

In 1986, the first ever systematic preaching group, the Evangelistic Planning Group (EPG) was also set up to strengthen preaching work – culminating in a number of truth-seekers coming to believe and be baptised into the 'Fold'.

Around this time after the dedication, London church took up the divine work of conducting regular Sabbath services at Chelmsford and Stanford-le-Hope. Eventually, after a few years, members from these respective areas would come to London for Sabbath services.



OLD STREET

In 1992, the membership of London Church had increased to approximately 175 members. By the grace of God and his wonderful arrangement, the church managed to secure a spacious five-storey commercial building situated not far away from the existing church premises.

The refurbishing work of the new building commenced after 2 years of purchase. It was initially contracted out to a couple of contractors. However, the whole project came under the total supervision of the London Building Committee after two months.

The painstaking process of refurbishment lingered on for quite a number of years. Tears, disappointment and despair at certain refurbishment phases was a challenge for the church. The members managed to tackle all odds by their concerted prayers. The more they relied on God, the easier it was for them to pull together to pull through each difficulty they encountered.

By the grace of God, London church at Old Street was dedicated to our Lord on the 23rd June 1997. We give thanks to God that we have been blessed with such a building at a prime location in central London.

Since the dedication of the church at Old Street, London Church has been the host of many various events both national and international. Because of London's accessibility and being a key gateway for travellers across the world, London Church

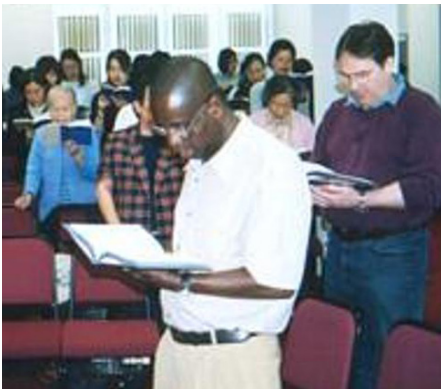
holds a unique place in welcoming various members from numerous countries.

Continuing from when members were at Pitfield Street, R.E. days were held annually at the end of the academic year. These would often consist of presentations from each class and an R.E. outing to a park for activities, to encourage a closer connection between parents, children and R.E. teachers.

The church at Old Street has also gone through many refurbishments from top to bottom. The third floor was renovated completely in 2008. The 2nd and 1st floor were both renovated in 2015, changing its original layout to be more spacious and modern. Most recently in 2020, the chapel was refurbished, increasing seating capacity and becoming more open. Currently, the church board is looking into renovating the basement kitchen after many decades of good use.

EXPANSION

Following the expansion of the church in London, the building at Old Street would quickly be at full capacity. To accommodate for the increasing number of members, who would travel from various areas of London, London Church began to look for other buildings to be used as places of worship, and eventually churches. This segment outlines how the True Jesus Church has grown and expanded within the last 40 years.



FOREST HILL
(SOUTH LONDON)

Extract taken from Forest Hill
Dedication Booklet (2012).

SOUTH LONDON PLACE
OF WORSHIP

The attendance of afternoon services in London Church often exceeded the main chapel's seating capacity. London Church Board agreed to 'launch out' to establish a second place of worship in South London. Bellingham Leisure Centre was visited for the first time, to explore the possibility of renting a small hall for Sabbath worship. On 4th December 2004, the first Sabbath worship was held at Bellingham Leisure Centre, with a congregation made up of the family members of London Church board members living in South London. More families joined in subsequent Sabbath services.

On 19th March 2005, the first evangelistic service was held at Bellingham. RE classes were started in September and soon, truthseeker classes were also held. On 25th June 2005, members organised an evangelism stall at the local Bellingham Festival, selling food and preaching to locals. On 30th October 2005, the first South London truthseekers were baptised during London Church's Autumn Spiritual Convocation. Thank God, one adult and two children were added to the fold.

On 11th February 2006, an EGM meeting was held in London Church to vote on the proposal to find a new permanent place of worship in South London, with a fund appeal of up to £500,000. The motion was passed by two-third majority of the London Church members. The second evangelistic service was held later that same month and included a large congregation of members and eight truthseekers. To strengthen the members, we started family bible studies.

The South London Evangelistic Planning Group (EPG) was later formed to organise leafleting, EPG fellowships and doctrine classes for truthseekers. Groups of youths from London Church were also arranged to assist with leafleting in South London. By November, a plot of land at Beadnell Road was found but planning consent was required to change the land use for church worship.

More families and youths joined the congregation in South London. In April 2008, the BPG formally submitted our application for planning permission to demolish the existing building at 25-27 Beadnell Road, excavate a new basement and construct a new five-storey church building. The first special Friday evening service was held on July 19th 2008. On 25th October 2008, the first South London Youth Fellowship was held after the Sabbath services. In November, Lewisham Council refused our planning application. Later, we found a church building and church hall for sale in Welling. The members at the AGM meeting voted in favour of submitting a tender bid and letters were sent out to all the UK churches to request for loans and ask for members' donations. We lost the tender to a higher bidder.

God listened to our earnest prayers as we were no longer able to all 'live' in one room on the Sabbath day, where up to five different activities would take place at the same time. Very quickly, we found another hall called "Hazelhurst Court" in Bellingham. On 30th January 2010, members gathered on the Sabbath at the new rental hall, which had kitchen facilities and additional rooms to cater for RE classes. On 28th May 2010, a South London bible camp was held in Wales for four days and three nights. Evangelism in the new area continued with a gospel tea event in August, which was attended by a large number of truthseekers.

FOREST HILL CHURCH

A Jehovah's Witness Kingdom Hall which was for sale was found at 11 Davids Road, Forest Hill. Thank God, our bid of £510,000 was accepted. On 23rd March 2011, contracts were exchanged to finally realise our plans for a permanent place of worship in South London after seven years. Members gathered for the final Sabbath at Hazelhurst Court on 26th March, before moving all our accumulated church belongings to the new chapel at 11 Davids Road. In the same month, the Church Board approved the proposal to draw up new plans for 25-27 Beadnell Road for 6 new apartment flats and a new planning application to increase the value of the land. On 2nd April, the first Sabbath Service was held at Forest Hill Church. On 14th May 2011, a London Church Board meeting was held for the first time at Forest Hill Church. Throughout September and October, refurbishment works were carried out to create new RE classrooms on the first floor and basement. In September, the new residential planning application for 25-27 Beadnell Road was approved by Lewisham Council and members at an EGM meeting voted in favour of selling the land. In December, an EGM election was held to vote for an additional Church Board member to serve the members in Forest Hill Church. There are now a total of five Church Board members for Forest Hill Church.

In the Summer Spiritual Convocation held on 30th June to 1st July 2012, Forest Hill Church was dedicated to our Lord Jesus. Following this decision, an additional Church Board member was elected for London Church. London Church Board continued as one board of 12 members serving together until 1st July 2012. Following the Church Dedication, Forest Hill Church Board has its own board of five members, with seven board members taking care of London Church.



ESSEX PLACE OF WORSHIP

The Place of Worship in Essex started with only a handful of brethren coming together to have fellowship at a member's home back in 2015. Since then, more families have relocated to Chelmsford from other cities, especially families who have moved away from London.

As the size of the congregation increased, the place of worship decided to hold the weekly Sabbath services at various rented venues, such as university lecture rooms, meeting rooms at the museum or the village hall.

Under God's guidance, the congregation was officially registered as a place of worship in 2018 under the pastoral care of London church. Workers from London are sent to Essex regularly to help out with the holy work there. Additionally, Church Board members were elected to take responsibility for various holy work and RE classes were established.

Currently, the place of worship is looking to buy a permanent location to worship. We thank God that members in London Central have offered a lump sum for the purchase of a building.

We continue to pray that the gospel of Christ will continue to prosper in Essex and may the name of God be glorified.



PRESENT SITUATION

For the past 40 years, the True Jesus Church in London has gone through much change and growth, from our history and our expansion. In this segment, we give an update to the present situation of the church in London, reflecting on our current and recent challenges, and how God has continued to guide the church even to this day.



COVID-19 PANDEMIC

40th Editorial Team

"And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of sorrows."

(Matthew 24:6-8)

BEGINNING OF A PANDEMIC 2020

Covid-19 first began circulating in China at the end of 2019 and slowly started to make headline news. To many of us at the time, it seemed far-fetched that it would cause a global pandemic and affect the lives of us living in the UK. However, by the end of March 2020, the virus had spread rapidly through the UK, causing the UK government to issue a stay at home order (lockdown) on the 23 March 2020. Subsequently, all religious education classes, fellowships, events and services were moved online for the very first time in the church's history.

As a result, the church had to set up YouTube live streaming of services for members to watch virtually. Moreover, Zoom meetings were set up to help facilitate online fellowships and RE classes. WhatsApp groups were also set up for several areas of the church, including a main announcement group chat, where members were able to receive updates of the church.

MAINTAINING WORSHIP DURING A PANDEMIC 2020-2022

As time passed, members were hopeful that the lockdown would be over soon. After the first wave of the pandemic that lasted from March 2020 to September 2020, there seemed to be a possibility of reopening the church for services. However, from the beginning of Autumn 2020, the UK experienced a second wave

of the virus, causing more restrictions to be put in place.

Throughout this period, services, fellowships and RE classes continued to be held online.

On 19th December 2020, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) for London Central was held virtually on Zoom. In this AGM, members were split into groups to make voting easier to manage, which also gave many members the opportunity to catch up with each other after months of lockdown. Following this, on the 24th April 2021, a virtual tea break was held, with a focus to allow members to reconnect and fellowship with each other.



POST-PANDEMIC WORSHIP 2022 – PRESENT

*How lovely is Your tabernacle,
O LORD of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, even faints
For the courts of the LORD;
My heart and my flesh cry out for the
living God.* (Psalms 84:1-2)

Thank God, after two years of worship being online, London church at Old Street was able to reopen for worship services. However, as Covid-19 was still being spread, the reopening of the churches in London was done in phases.

From 24th July 2021, services finally returned to in person worship at London Church at Old Street, with services starting from 2pm to 3:15pm on Saturday. RE classes were still held online but in the morning, to allow members to travel into church. Various precautions taken, such as testing, sanitising and restricted areas to reduce the possibility of transmission between members. By the grace of God, the Holy Communion sacrament was held on the 31st July 2021.

From 6th November 2021, RE classes returned to being back in person at church, with a simple lunch served between RE classes and the first Sabbath service.

From 31st August 2022 onwards, Friday night services also returned to in person worship at church and service times were adjusted to include a hymnal and prayer session at noon on Saturdays. Dinner meals also returned, encouraging members to stay behind after service to fellowship with one another.

Looking back, we give thanks to God for preserving many of our members throughout the pandemic. Although some members have yet to return to church services in person, whether due to personal reasons or difficult circumstances, the church continues to encourage its members to come to the church to worship. We also give thanks to God for providing several families and members the opportunity to move away from London during the pandemic, especially towards the Essex area. This subsequently helped to increase the membership and manpower for the Essex place of worship, who are currently looking to buy a permanent building for worship.



ORDINATION OF DEACONS

40th Editorial Team

"Then He said to His disciples, 'The harvest truly is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.'" (Matthew 9:37-38)

At the end of 2022, an AGM (Annual General Meeting) was held in London Central church for the yearly matters of the church and the voting of passing the ordination of Bro. Siak Fah Chong to become deacon. The ordination was passed by members. Likewise, in Forest Hill church, members voted to pass the ordination for Bro.

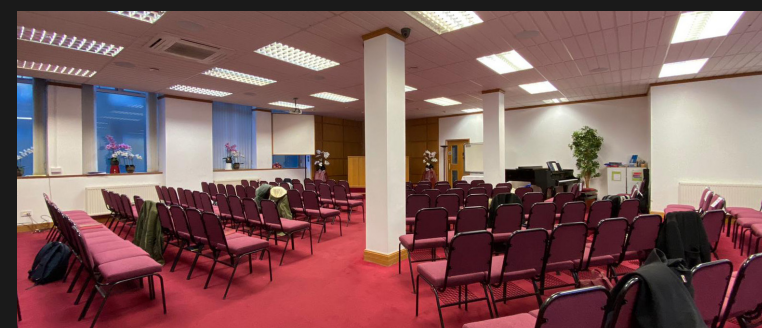
Mike Parrett to become deacon. In the beginning of 2023, members in Essex with the support of members in London Central also voted to pass the ordination of Bro. Benjamin Choo as deacon.

From the beginning of 2023, for several months, the three brothers underwent training from the UKGA ministers. This included both lesson based training and practical training. By the grace of God, London has received three new deacons, and were ordained together on the 14th May 2023. The London region previously

had two serving deacons, but now will have five serving deacons!

May God guide and strengthen Dn. Siak Fah Chong, Dn. Mike Parrett and Dn. Benjamin Choo as they continue their journey of serving God in His beloved church!

*Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying:
"Whom shall I send,
And who will go for Us?"
Then I said, "Here am I! Send me."
(Isaiah 6:8)*



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REPORT

Bro. Him Ho, RE in Charge

Thank God for His abundant grace in establishing and building up the RE department in London church over the past 40 years. A deep sense of gratitude must be given to the numerous RE teachers and RE in-charges who have given their effort, love, sweat, tears and prayers to help guide all of the RE students in their journey of faith. It is one of the greatest joys, whether as a parent or a RE teacher, when we see our children grow and mature to become fellow co-workers in serving the Lord. We hope more members can see the deep joy of passing on our faith and take the opportunity to become RE teachers to show their love to the families in the church and repay the love that God has showered graciously upon us all.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it."
(Proverbs 22:6)

We are regularly reminded how our RE students are the future pillars of the church. Thus, there is a great responsibility as RE teachers to educate them in God's word, so that each generation can become better than the last, striving to become more Christ-like and perfect. However, the time each week RE teachers have with their students is extremely limited.

So it is very important that RE teachers and parents continue working together in supporting RE for our children both at church and at home. We both want our children to develop their own faith, become independent of us as they live their own lives and live a God fearing life, able to discern right and wrong in His eyes. Then no matter where our RE students end up, as long as their faith has been founded on God's commandments and teachings, we know that God will be with them to guide and direct each step in their lives.

At present, London church has 6 classes starting from 18 months in Nursery class all the way up to Senior Youth Class, blessed with over 40 students and nearly 30 teachers at present within the whole department. May we continue to pray for the RE work not just in London church but in TJC all across the world so it can continue improving and be carried out according to the will of God. Whether we live in London, ever visit London or God guides us to move to London, we hope that you can join in the RE department as a teacher or a family.

May all glory be given to God.

Bro. Him Ho



EVANGELISTIC PLANNING GROUP REFLECTION

Bro. Joey Hui, EPG in Charge

Hallelujah in the name of Jesus I testify.

Thank God from January 2023 I was assigned to lead the EPG (Evangelical Planning Group) department in London Church for the term 2023 to 2025. This is my second term as a Church board member. Previously I led the Working Committee department helping the Church with works related to general affairs; working together with brothers and sisters I looked after cleaning, cooking, reception, accommodation, transportation etc. Therefore taking on EPG is a completely different direction and a big challenge for me.

After praying about this work I decided to approach it carefully, outlining a simple 3 year plan

OUTLINE FOR 2023 - 2025

- **2023**
Continue previous terms' preaching works and make small improvements
- **2024**
Attempt more ambitious ideas to increase preaching works as a Church collectively
- **2025**
Review 2024 and make small improvements

In 2023 London's EPG team will continue the previous term's works and plan small tangible improvements.

With regards to continuing the previous term's works, every Saturday morning we will go out to street preach. Our goal with street preaching is not to just hand out leaflets but to have a conversation with someone and to share something from the Bible. Furthermore, every Sunday we will have an EPG prayer to ask God to make

EPG works fruitful, because although we plant and water, we must remember, ultimately it is God who gives the increase.

In 2023 we will also plan to make small improvements, and one example is EPG members training. Each member will be assigned to lead a sermon based on one of our doctrines, the aim is to use this as a tool to improve our knowledge of the doctrines. Encouraging our EPG members to take on this task will help them to study and explain the doctrines to truth seekers.

Another example of a small improvement is our plan to create a 10 articles of faith display. By setting up a display with the main points from our 10 articles of faith, this will help our general members preach to truth seekers. The goal of the EPG team is not only to participate in the preaching works but they should also facilitate the Church to preach, because the mission given by Jesus Christ was given to every brother and sister, and not just the EPG team.

Other works in 2023 include updating existing leaflets, doctrine training for general members and evangelical services.

Thank God the first four months of leading EPG have quickly passed and we are slowly building a strong foundation. Although we are lacking in many aspects of the work, we can only continue the work with faith and hope. As we continue with our 3 year plan I look forward to seeing the turn of events that God has planned for London Church EPG.

I have hope that God will inspire more workers to join the EPG works and I have faith that God will guide truth seekers to be saved.

May God bless London Church EPG.

Bro. Joey Hui



REFLECTION AND ENCOURAGEMENTS

In these past 40 years, let us consider how God has truly guided the church in London. In this segment, members and workers share their past experiences and encourage us, by God's grace, to look forward to the next 40 years.



As it is said in the Book of Ecclesiastes, "One generation passes away, and another generation comes" (Ecclesiastes 1:4a). London Church had her first dedication forty years ago. It was a monumental event in 1983. The church membership at that time consisted mostly of students from overseas who came over to the United Kingdom to further their studies. Many came and returned to their respective hometowns after completing their studies, but some had chosen to stay to look for a job and finally settle down in London.

Although I missed the first London church dedication by a year, time has passed so quickly that we are now in the 40th year. God has blessed London church in many ways.

GOD BLESSED US WITH OUR FIRST CHURCH BUILDING (194 PITFIELD STREET LONDON N1)

The church was first dedicated in May 1983 with a membership at that time of around 50-60 members. More students came over to study in the following few years, and several visiting preachers from America and other workers travelling towards Africa, stopped over in London. Students were encouraged to preach, evangelise and be rooted in the ten basic beliefs, whilst having door to door preaching and leafleting sessions around the Hackney area. More and more people came to believe and the church grew from 50-60 members to 80 to 100 members.

GOD BLESSED US WITH OUR SECOND (CURRENT) CHURCH BUILDING (57-63 EAST ROAD LONDON N1 6AH)

In 1993, ten years after the first church building, London church board started to look into the possibility of searching for a new Church building. The United Kingdom was in a financial crisis, so many companies fell through and were unable to service their bank loan. By the grace of God, we found the current London Central Church building on offer by the bank who repossessed the building due to the owner's inability to service the loan. The commercial agent informed us that the price for the building was £255,000 but

was unable to exchange the contract on time, hence the property went for auction.

"Praise and thanks be to God, that we finally outbid the remaining party and got the building for £250,000 which was £5,000 cheaper than the original offer made by the commercial agent."

Two London Church Board members went to the auction house to bid for the building. It was a very intense bid from the beginning until only 2 contenders were left. Praise and thanks be to God, that we finally outbid the remaining party and got the building for £250,000 which was £5,000 cheaper than the original offer made by the commercial agent.

It was a commercial building and the 'Change of Use' to become a Place of Worship had not been granted, but we bought the building by faith. Our purpose is to seek God for His help, and faith in Jesus is the most important part of our life. After obtaining the building, everyone would pray at 9pm in the evening every day for God's guidance, until the application to Hackney council for the 'Change of Use' was granted. As recorded in Psalm: 28:6, "Blessed be the Lord, Because He has heard the voice of my supplications."

Thank God, after waiting for over 8 months, the 'Change of Use' was finally granted. We spent around 2 years renovating parts of the building. Converting the ground floor to be the main chapel and renovating the basement to be a dining area and kitchen, were mostly done by the brothers and sisters of London Church. Even today, the dining area and the kitchen floors were tiled by London members to save money rather than to contract a tiler to complete the task.

GOD BLESSED US TO BRANCH OUT TO FOREST HILL (11 DAVID'S ROAD LONDON SE23 3EP)

Due to the continuing increase of the membership in London church, the then Church Board in London decided after prayer, to branch out towards the south of the River Thames. It started with hiring community centres and recreational halls for Sabbath services and RE classes. After many twists and turns, we finally found



the current church building for sale that used to belong to Jehovah Witnesses. Thank God members living in the south of London were able to start using the newly acquired chapel for Sabbath worship. Forest Hill Church was dedicated in May 2012. It has now been over 11 years, may the Lord continue to bless the Church and the members in Forest Hill. "Behold, the eye of the Lord is on those who fear Him, on those who hope in His mercy." (Psalms 33:18).

GOD BLESSED US TO BRANCH OUT AGAIN TO ESSEX (PLACE OF WORSHIP)

As mentioned in the scripture, the purpose of man's life is to seek God. Faith in Him is the most important thing in our life (Acts 17:27).

Essex Place of Worship began in 2015 by having Sunday and occasional weekday family gatherings and fellowships. Thank God after many family gatherings and fellowship, the brethren decided to begin Sabbath services officially, in April 2016. From a small membership of around 20, it has now increased to over 40 in this Place of Worship. Members now are actively looking for a permanent place of worship (Church Building). May the Lord continue to guide and direct our path, to continue to preach and evangelise for Him, and glorify His name.

London Church has had her 40th year anniversary, and must continue to realise

the great commissions – preaching and pastoring that was entrusted by our Lord Jesus. The world is rapidly changing, and natural disasters, environmental destruction, geopolitical conflicts, divisions, and pandemics, will continue to upend the certainties that past generations trusted in.

The youths today have been affected by the internet, and social media has accelerated trend cycles, blurred the lines between the truth in the Bible and misinformation, and increased social discourse, negatively impacting social attitudes.

In the midst of such pressures and influences, how can our True Jesus Church youths maintain their faith—to be the Light and Salt of the World?

We need to continue to intercede for our youths, as they have a vital role to play within the church, within their families, and within society. To do so, they must be securely rooted in the truth and basic beliefs, nourished and revitalised by the Holy Spirit, and strengthened through an intimate connection with Christ and His church. If we are a youth, do we cultivate ourselves and ensure that we are firmly rooted in the Basic Beliefs and the Truth? If we do, then our young saplings in faith will grow strong enough to withstand whatever winds and storms this life may bring, to flourish in the courts of God and bear fruit into old age.

May the Church in London continue to expand into many more Churches, to bring glorification to His name! Amen.

GOD'S WORK IN LONDON: "INCREASING THE NATION, EXPANDING THE BORDERS"

Pr. Raymond Leacock

Hallelujah! Greetings to the brethren of True Jesus Church in London, and brethren near and far.

London is one of the major cities in the UK in which the true Gospel of Salvation has been preached. Since 1983 to the present time, during these forty years the True Jesus Church in London has been a host for full time ministers, workers and servants as an instrument for His purpose. They have been able to see for themselves how to preach the gospel while adapting to the hearers. They have been able to witness God's choice of converts to His truth of salvation from humble beginnings.

During these forty years, she has gone through a period of tests through training, to see whether they would keep the commandments of God in their heart; believers, disciples, and those in various aspects of His ministry have gone through a period of learning to be humbled by God in His mountain (Isaiah 11:6-9). When we look from past times to present days, significant events have happened through His choice; His choice of workers in full-time ministry, pioneering works into other regions such as Forest Hill Church and Essex Place of Worship, youths who have persevered often to pray together and to step into various aspects of ministry for His name to name but a few. Brethren are from different nationalities, and yet despite this, all would be able to discover the work of God towards them. God has been impartial to choose them for salvation, into the body of Christ. Godly fear has been the reward for those who seek Him in truth (Acts 10:34-35). Despite the above there still remains areas to mature, to become and remain perfect and complete in all the will of God.

The community of faith has many challenges ahead of her, especially during

times of uncertainty. May the future days of London Church continue to be fruitful whereby she is able to:

- Gain more brethren who adopt the form of Timothy, to remind others of ways in Christ consistent with the Gospel of Truth (1 Corinthians 4:17).
- Remain sensitive to those who are neglected, which allows for a more modest outlook for the Household of God (Acts 6:1).
- Discover a future generation of brethren; equipped for God's ministry, to edify His household, to nurture and become nurtured in a direction that accords with the Holy Spirit and with the truth (Ephesians 4:11-12, 2 Timothy 2:2).
- Continue remaining transformed by His Spirit from glory to glory at the altar to enter His presence behind the veil (2 Corinthians 4:16-18, Numbers 18:67).
- Remember to continue to glorify His name that remains praiseworthy to the One True God, because He expects this (Psalms 50:15).

May all our brethren strive for this form and image for eternal life:

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son." (Revelation 21:6-7)



THE CITY OF GOD - THE CHURCH IN LONDON

Pr. Fook Fah Chong

London Church is 40 years old. She is now a mature church. The levels of perfection for her to attain to are as follows:

LONDON CHURCH MUST BE A PLACE OF PEACE

He makes war cease from the earth - one of the unique features of the highest mountain, which is the church, is the transformation it brings on those who flow to it. They shall not learn of war (Isaiah 2:4; Micah 4:3).

LONDON CHURCH MUST BE A PLACE WHERE ENMITY IS DESTROYED

He breaks the bow and cuts the spear into two - in another Psalm, it states that in His dwelling place, Zion, the church, He shall break the arrows of bows and the shield and sword of the battle (Psalms 76:2-3).

LONDON CHURCH MUST BE A PURIFIED CHURCH

He burns the chariot in fire - the closest description to this expression is the case of God destroying the armies of the

North, who first came in troops (Ezekiel 38: 6-8) and horses (38:15). Though they were a punishing force on Israel (God's people), they and their weapons were to be destroyed (Ezekiel 38:21-23; 39:9-11). Though there may be troubles at times within the church for whatever reasons, the peace of God shall eventually prevail after she is purified with fiery trials.

Since the church is the only place where peace is truly experienced, the church in London must at all costs allow the peace of God to rule in her by yielding to the power of the Spirit. Besides, to attain a peaceful state, the church in London must allow the peace of God to rule in her members' hearts (Colossians 3:15).

This level of attainment is achieved by establishing the perfect bond of love amongst members in London with God. Only then can London church's dominance be restored, bringing the peace of Christ to those who believe in Him (Haggai 2:7ff).

True Jesus Church
LONDON

真耶穌教會（倫敦教會）



40TH ANNIVERSARY

傳教四十週年

1983 - 2023



THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Dn. Nehemiah Zhou

THE IMPORTANCE OF PREACHING THE GOSPEL

Thank God that the True Jesus Church has been established in London by God for 40 years.

From the Bible we know that God establishes His church on earth to proclaim the praises of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 2:9) in order for people to know and believe in Him to receive salvation so that more people will be brought by God and added to the church (Acts 2:47)

So, it is important to remind one another of the Bible's teachings concerning why we need to participate in the preaching work.

FOLLOWING JESUS' FOOTSTEPS

After we were baptised into the body of Christ, we need to understand that Jesus Christ wants us to follow His footsteps to preach the gospel to all people (1 Peter 1:21-24; Matthew 28:18)

Since we have been born again with a living hope due to the grace of God (1 Peter 1: 3-4), living a righteous life is God's will,

which is to live a life following Jesus as His disciples did, to do His will and do the preaching work for Jesus, which is doing His will.

NECESSITY OF SHARING THE GOSPEL

So, in the journey of our faith, sharing the gospel with others is the dispensable work for everyone who has been baptised into the body of Christ. This is why God poured down His Spirit upon His church. God wants us to be empowered and motivated to witness for Him (Acts 1:8).

"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel!"

In fact, God has entrusted us with the ministry of reconciliation when we became a new creation in Christ, which means that we have to be faithful to do the good work. (2 Corinthians 5:17-19; Ephesians 2:10)



As the apostle Paul wrote in his epistle: *"For if I preach the gospel, I have nothing to boast of, for necessity is laid upon me; yes, woe is me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this willingly, I have a reward; but if against my will, I have been entrusted with a stewardship."* (1 Corinthians 9:16-17).

Paul recognised that he had been entrusted with the work of preaching the gospel, and he understood that this work needed to be done faithfully in order to receive reward from God.

EMULATING PAUL TO SHINE FORTH THE LIGHT IN THE WORLD

Since we are the disciples of Jesus, do we have the same recognition and understanding as Paul had? If God inspired Paul, surely He will inspire us as well because we have the same Holy Spirit to guide us. Why are we not able to have the same mindset and do the same good work? This is a question we need to answer. We need to find out the reason why we are not doing it, as we don't want to become disqualified and lose the blessings of God.

"Let's bring people to God. This is the good work that needs to be done by every member before they are received back to the heavenly kingdom"

Jesus taught His disciples that you are the light of the world (Matthew 5:14-16). This implies that we have been given the light which is Jesus Christ, who is the only true light, which is the truth. Therefore we need to shine forth the light in the world as commanded by the Lord, which is to preach the gospel to everyone whom we know in season and out of season (2 Timothy 4:2), so that those who have yet to receive the truth will be given the truth and the way to salvation. Let's bring people to God. This is the good work that needs to be done by every member before they are received back to the heavenly kingdom (Revelation 12:11).

LET US STRIVE TOGETHER

Since we are slaves of righteousness by the grace of God (Romans 6:18, 22), let us strive together for the faith of the gospel. (Philippians 1:17). May God bless and guide our endeavours for His name. Amen!



FIRESIDE CHAT WITH DNS. ANNA KHOO

Dns. Anna Khoo and Sis. Amanda Chin

Amanda

Hi Dns Anna, thanks for making time to be here today. Tell us what you recollect about the early days of the London church.

Dns Anna

By God's grace, the London church was dedicated in 1983. The church building at 194 Pitfield street was purchased in the autumn of 1982, and thinking back, I could see God's hands working in the purchase of the building and how He chose His workers to establish His church in His time.

In the 1970s, there was a wish for the London-based True Jesus Church (TJC) members, many of whom were youths, to find a permanent place of worship. However, it did not materialise.

In Autumn 1981, there was a sudden influx of TJC youths to London, whether from South-East Asia or within the UK. These were active youths back in their home churches. Somehow, these youths, who would not have come to London on their own, were sent by their employers with

scholarships or grants to study in London. Lost sheep, too, started to return to the fold and became fervent in faith. During that period, I was in my final year of university in Kent.

I also recalled how, during the summer of 1982, several experienced ministers visited the London Prayer House. They conducted a series of spiritual convocations and Bible courses for the congregation. We were reminded of our faith and purpose in life. One could see that God was preparing His people for the tasks ahead.

By God's grace, we found the place at 194 Pitfield Street in the autumn of 1982.

I moved to London to further my studies in Autumn, 1982. By then, many new faces – primarily youths from overseas – attended services in London Prayer House. And because these youths had served in their home churches, they could deliver sermons, play the piano, teach R.E., etc. The core resources needed to run the church were available. Indeed, God had arranged workers for His church in London when the

time was right.

Amanda

What can you remember about the early years of the youths worshipping together at 194 Pitfield Street?

Dns Anna

I remember we were inexperienced but united and focused on what we wanted to do. We helped one another, working together to ensure every Sabbath worship could run smoothly. We knew we were inadequate and often we didn't know how to do the work. So, we learned to pray and to try our best. What I cherished most was that we worked closely as a team, which helped us become very close-knit.

We also just offered what we had. When we first moved into 194 Pitfield Street, we had little money, so we had to carry out much of the renovation ourselves. We painted the church's interior and even converted the garage into a classroom. We considered having a garage-converted classroom a luxury. Before we bought this building, at one period of time, we were conducting

RE lessons along the staircase in a rented theatre in Chinatown!

One salient feature of those early days of London church was the youths' evangelistic zeal. They would proactively evangelise together, distributing gospel leaflets and even reaching out to other church denominations to share the gospel with them. In fact, that was how we met Pr Raymond's family!

Amanda

Were there any significant personal lessons that you learned during that time?

Dns Anna

Life as an overseas student was tough. Some of us faced financial difficulties; others had immigration issues, accommodation issues, and the list continues.

As for me, at one point, I had student visa issues and endured months of uncertainty while waiting for a decision from the UK Home Office. Even deciding how much groceries to buy each week was a challenge – I never knew if I would be asked to leave the country before I could finish using my groceries. Studies-wise, I also had to sit for difficult professional exams, even failing some. That was a humbling experience for me.

Yet, looking back, those life challenges were part of faith training. I learned what trusting in God meant, for everything I encountered, every day. The words of the Bible also became alive for me, as they became my source of strength to guide me through each day.

Amanda

How did being a close-knit youth group benefit your service?

Dns Anna

Many of us were away from our families in a foreign country where we were ethnic minorities. We knew that we couldn't, and we didn't, participate in many of the secular activities that our classmates, colleagues, and even housemates participated in.

With this awareness that we could not be like the rest of the world, we chose to journey together and charted a different path as God's chosen people.

We became close-knit through our faith. We held on to the Bible's principles of serving and helping one another. We also looked out for one another. If we noticed someone absent that Sabbath, we would find ways to reach out to that person.

In the 1980s, over the years, during the public holiday periods, we would arrange our own Bible seminar retreats. This was our chance to gather in fellowship

and study the word of God while having fun together. Nobody had told us to do this, and it was not an official church programme run by a General Assembly (GA) – which didn't exist for the UK then. While we travelled and had fun, studying the word of God together was a core part of the programme.

In those days, our spiritual and social life revolved around the church. We forged genuine, strong friendships, some of which have lasted even until today, 40 years later!

Amanda

How about life in London society then? What was it like for your faith?

Dns Anna

While we did have fewer distractions at



that time, ultimately, London was still a fast-paced and decadent society. For instance, before we moved to Pitfield Street, we worshiped in a neighbourhood similar to a red-light district. It was full of vice!

Additionally, we were students away from the security and comfort of home. Life was difficult for us. Some of us worked part-time while studying. Eating a bowl of noodles in the cheapest café in Chinatown was a treat!

Despite all these, come Sabbath day, we would be in church for the entire day. We seldom uttered phrases like, "I don't have time." Most of us took more than an hour just to travel to Pitfield street, and we didn't

own cars either. Sabbath was truly the day of rest for us, a day where we laid aside the problems of life and came to His house to worship Him. We echoed the sentiments of David when he said: I was glad when they said to me, "let us go into the house of the Lord" (Ps 122:1).

Over time, our faith grew as we experienced God's loving hands patiently guiding and protecting us as we faced our daily challenges.

Amanda

What do you find most encouraging now as you reflect on these times?

Dns Anna

The most comforting thing to me, 40 years later, is that many of us are still in church and actively serving God wherever He has placed us around the world: Australia, Singapore, West Malaysia, Sabah, Hong Kong, and the UK.

Whenever we have the opportunity to meet, that closeness remains. I can reach out to some of these once-upon-a-time youths as if we were together in London church only yesterday.

Nevertheless, there is also a tinge of sadness; some are no longer with us today, whether they have been called home by the Lord or have departed from the pure faith.

Amanda

If you had one key lesson from those early days in London that you would like to share with our congregation, what would that be?

Dns Anna

The one key lesson I have learned from those early days is the importance of unity while serving in God's church. We had different cultural backgrounds, personalities, and interests. Yet somehow, God put us together, and we shared a common goal of wanting to serve God and His church. There was no ulterior motive or self-interest. With the simplicity of faith, we supported, encouraged, and prayed for one another as we worked as a team. As inadequate servants, we planted and watered. Over time, we saw how the Lord gave the growth.

I truly thank our almighty God for letting me experience what a family in Christ is all about. That is truly precious. May all glory and praise be to Him.

TESTIMONIES

Thank God, the True Jesus Church in London has received many members over the past 40 years. Many often come from abroad to study or work in London, whilst some have been living in London for many years. This segment is dedicated to testimonies from its members, during their time in London church.

*I will remember the works of the LORD; Surely I will remember Your wonders of old.
I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.* (Psalms 77:11-12)



BROUGHT TO CHURCH BY... A STRANGER ON THE TUBE

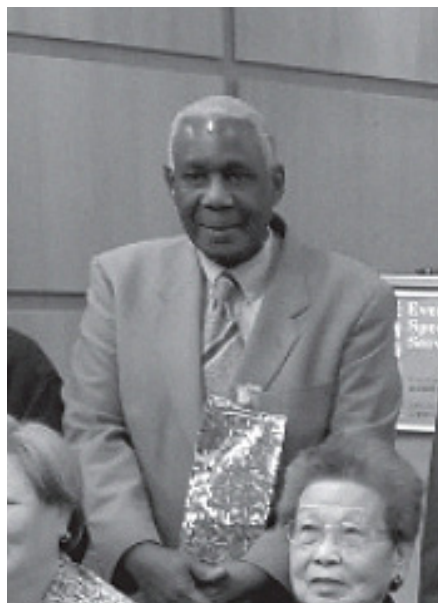
Our Late Bro. Ricky Graham

I was a prison minister for nearly 9 years at Wormwood Scrubs Prison in West London. I went regularly to the prison to hold services and speak with the prisoners.

On one Sunday around lunch time, on the way home from the prison, I met four gentlemen on the Northern Line Tube. I saw that one of the brothers was doing mathematics while on the train. I asked him if he goes to church and he said that they go to a church called the True Jesus Church. Shortly afterwards, we parted company at Finchley Central tube station.

"When I heard this hymn, it brought to remembrance that 30 years ago, I had a vision of being amongst oriental people singing the same hymn!"

The next Friday, when again returning home from the prison, I took a nap on the tube. When I opened my eyes, I saw a Chinese gentleman in front of me. He



said that I had napped for a long time. I said that I was a prison minister and took a nap, because I was tired from frequent travelling to the prison. I then asked this gentleman if he went to church. He said that he attended a church called True Jesus Church! He said his name was

Kenneth. I told him that I had met four other gentlemen the previous Sunday and they also said they attended True Jesus Church. Kenneth told me that the 4 church brothers I met had been travelling that Sunday to have lunch with him. Ken then gave me a card with the church address and service timetable on it.

I took the opportunity to attend the Church one following Saturday. When I attended for the first time, the congregation was singing Hymn 101: None of Self and All of Thee. When I heard this hymn, it brought to remembrance that 30 years ago, I had a vision of being amongst oriental people singing the same hymn! Thank God, I was moved by the singing of the members and found that kneeling down to pray and sitting to listen to many sermons each Sabbath was very different to my previous Church. Shortly after coming to the Church for the first time, I believed I had found the Truth and the One True Church. I left my previous Pentecostal church and quit my prison job and wanted to dedicate my life to being a member of the True Jesus Church. I was added to the fold and baptised into the True Jesus Church.

FROM YOUR 40-YEAR-OLD CHILD

Pr. Nissi Chin

"But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are registered in heaven, to God the Judge of all, to the spirits of just men made perfect."

(Heb 12:22-23)

"But the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all."

(Gal 4:26)

One of the earliest childhood memories we have is of our mothers. We can never forget our mothers. The voice, the love, the warmth, the sacrifice, the strength, the comfort, the safety, of our mothers, is unique, special, unparalleled. London church, in your arms I was fed, nourished, loved, comforted, raised. Though I may not have been the easiest child to raise, from a tender age, I could feel your care, your love. You were always there, gently guiding me, helping me to grow. Though young and ignorant, just being with you, spending much time with you brought me much comfort and safety.

On cold, dark, early winter nights, looking forward to going to church on Friday evenings brought a warmth to my heart. Spending the whole Sabbath day with you, learning from my older brethren, being looked after by them, or being reminded by them, was a privilege. Spending time with my younger brethren, my peers, was an utter joy. The joy didn't stop there. Sunday mornings were filled with hour-long prayers, although concentrating for the full hour on bended knee was not something I excelled in. Though my eyes were sometimes open looking around, even walking around the chapel, I sometimes saw the tears of members in prayer, not understanding why, though with toilet tissue to hand, gave them a wipe. I saw members physically moved by the Holy Spirit to manoeuvre around the chapel on their knees in prayer, and not colliding with anything. I even once saw and heard someone receiving the Holy Spirit. There were also times during those prayers that I fell asleep on the ground. But at the end of each hour-long prayer, I always felt a

sense of inexpressible serenity and joy. God was there. It didn't stop there. After prayer, oftentimes we then ventured the streets of Hackney and Islington to



distribute leaflets, young and old together, sometimes chased by dogs, but joyful all the same, ending the day at the local park or at someone's home.

In the 1990s, we moved to a new location. I began my teenage years, and so did you, London church. It felt a little different. Did I change? Or did you? It seemed we spent less time together. Circumstances were different. The care-free, childish enthusiasm and zest for life began to be overshadowed by the weight of life. Although some years I became quite distant from you, you were still there, my mother. Still feeding me, still nourishing me though I may not have always appreciated

or realised. Various children of yours, my siblings, at various times were sent to encourage me. I eventually realised there was nowhere else to go but to return and embrace my mother. Then I began to see more and more the beauty of the children you raised, to help each other.

For it is written: *"Rejoice, o barren, you who do not bear! Break forth and shout, you who are not in labour! For the desolate has many more children than she who has a husband."*

(Gal 4:27)

"Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband"

(Rev 21:2)

Indeed, the Jerusalem above, our mother has borne many children. New Jerusalem, the bride of Christ, was chosen by her husband, the Lord Jesus Christ. As a result, she has borne many spiritual children. London Church is a place that has born and adopted children of diverse walks of life. She has until this day continued to nurture and raise many spiritual children, workers of God. May she continue to be fruitful as she reaches her 40th year milestone. 40 is a significant number in the bible. In the time of Noah, God caused it to rain 40 days and nights. After Moses fled from Egypt, it was 40 years before God met him from the flame of fire in the bush. The Israelites' faith was put to the test when Moses was on Mount Sinai for 40 days and nights. They wandered the wilderness for 40 years. Jesus was tempted in the wilderness for 40 days and nights. A time of testing indeed is related to the number 40. Looking back, how have we fared, London church, both you and I?

May God continue to bless you abundantly in your 40th year, to move forward with the trials ahead, and to continue to provide a safe and empowering space for your children and many more to come.

From your 40-year-old child.





GROWING UP IN THE CHURCH

Various

INTRODUCTION

Many members in London often come from various other places and many often come for short periods of time. Some come for work, some come to study, and some may come to London for a short holiday. However, some of the members have been in London for many years, including those who grew up in London. In this segment, we share our experiences of what it was like for us growing up in the church.

BRO. CALEB CHAN

Being born in the church, I do not remember a time where I did not attend church for a long period of time. It was a part of my life, going to church every Saturday to attend services and RE classes. Moreover, since London church services and activities were held from morning to the evening, most of my Saturdays were spent entirely

at church. When I was younger, I often viewed church as a place where I could come see my friends, hang out and eat good food.

However, as I grew older, I became more aware of what the purpose of the church really was, in that it was not just solely a place for my physical well being, but more importantly, my spiritual well being. Having been brought up in the RE system, I knew about God and I knew about the basics of being a Christian, but it was only during my teenage years that the difference between faith and knowledge was put to the test. During this period up to now, life has thrown at me various difficulties and trials, including when my dad passed away in the span of a few months. Yet, throughout these difficulties, God provided me with brethren in the church, both young and old, to encourage me and help me during these difficult times. I realised that the church was not just merely a physical

place to socialise with others, but a spiritual stronghold of God, in times of need and in times of peace. Without the church, I would be in a much different place and state.

I thank God that as we approach 40 years of the TJC in London, we will continue to help the younger generation grow, especially in these difficult times. I hope that I may learn from the many examples in the church that I grew up with, to also be a good example to others.

SIS. KEZIAH ZHOU

I grew up in London Church and over the years I have seen and experienced God's grace and abundance. When I was very young, I remember I always felt joyful and happy to come to church; although I didn't have many friends in school, I have fond memories of attending the Sabbath from morning until the evening each week. On the Sabbath, I remember sometimes

watching my parents cooking in the kitchen and spending time with members in church. As I grew older, in addition to RE classes I had the opportunity to attend various activities such as youth fellowships, Sunday morning prayers, leafleting, and door to door. Although I was still young, the youths would ask us if we wanted to join and encourage us. I thank God because it gave me the chance to get involved; I began to realise the importance of serving God and how each of us have a part to play. God has given us all talents and gifts and we should use these to serve Him diligently.

However, there have been times when my faith has been weak and I've let things of the world take priority over God. When we are blinded in our faith, it is easy to think that life without God is better because we are free to do what we want. But this is only deceiving ourselves and I have certainly experienced this before, almost forgetting that in the end we all will face God's judgement. I can recall during one of my lowest points, I was still serving but my heart was far from God. I didn't always observe Sabbath properly and at times I would either come late or be reluctant to stay for long. During this time, some members would still message and remind me about Sabbath keeping; they would encourage me to stay and I thank God for their love. After attending YTTC that year, I realised how sinful my life was and I made a determination to change through constant prayer and repentance to God. I thank God He has preserved me

and I have come to realise that the most important thing you can have in your life is God. To be connected to His Church, to gather often with your fellow brothers and sisters is a blessing and much needed so we can continue on this journey of faith.

This year is the 40th anniversary so let us remind one another to grasp the opportunity to draw closer to God. Let us not lose sight of our true purpose in life which is to enter His heavenly kingdom and glorify God, and be reminded of His blessed Church the Lord has given us.

BRO. BRADLEY YEUNG

Thank God I spent my first ten years of life growing up in London Church. I have many fond memories, including but not limited to the RE Day plays, fellowships with the older youths, and the church's unity and inclusiveness, despite the age difference.

My parents would take me to church every Sabbath since I was a child, and my experience of church was subconsciously more of a routine than true worship. During the latter years of this time I started taking my faith more seriously and with the many brothers and sisters, who unbeknownst to them, showed me how to serve God in the church and in our lives through their actions and testimonies. This is something that I am eternally grateful for; that God has given us spiritual companions to share each other's burdens and encourage one another in this one faith and spiritual journey.

I've been a member of Forest Hill Church for nearly a decade. The love and unity of London Church that I felt a decade ago still exist today, demonstrating that God truly abides in us, and as long as we abide in Him, we will remain steadfast in the faith and grow in unity.

SIS. KATYA CHONG

Having been born and raised in London, I have seen the vast change and abundant growth of the church. London is an incredibly busy city, and we as locals are blessed with the opportunity to meet brethren from all around the world. Although we are from different backgrounds and cultures, what unites us as one family is being baptised into His body and holding fast the doctrines of the church.

As we are constantly having visitors, both old and new faces, I saw the hospitality and love from other members as I grew up. No matter the age, there were members always willing to help out, whether it was for church events, cooking or even cleaning. From young I remember the older members encouraging us to help around the church, from putting away the Bibles and hymn books after dinner, to the "leaflet factory" where we would cross out the old address of the church, stamp the new one on and place a separate flyer inside of the old leaflet. Not only have I learnt from the older brethren, but I have also been touched by the simplicity of heart in our





younger members. As long as you are a member of the church, with a willing heart, then you are never too young or old to set an example to other members.

*"Let no one despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, in conduct, in love, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
(1 Timothy 4:12)*

A big example the older youths set for me was a tradition they started which was to have Saturday night sharing, where they would reflect on what they have learnt that Sabbath or during the week. I remember begging my mum to stay longer so that I could hear everyone's sharing. Now that I am older and this fellowship is still around, it holds a special place in my heart, because we are able to encourage, learn from and pray for one another. When you are able to exhort one another with His word, then you are able to strengthen your bond. Especially now that we are in the end times, it is important to remind one another of His precious truth that we have been given.

*"If you instruct the brethren in these things, you will be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished in the words of faith and of the good doctrine which you have carefully followed."
(1 Timothy 4:6)*

On top of this fellowship with one another, I have seen the willing heart of the members in preaching the word of God. Whether it was before covid, with regular Sunday door to door, or after, where there is weekly Saturday street preaching in the morning, I can see their fervency to spread the gospel. I thank God that I have seen Him working in the church.

May the members of London church continue this heart of fellowship and spreading the gospel, as the church continues to expand and grow.

*"Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you."
(1 Timothy 4:16)*

BRO. SAMUEL CHONG

In the Name of Jesus Christ I share. Thank God for His guidance of London church all these years. Although now I am based outside of London and attending Sabbath at Essex Place of Worship, there are many fond memories of being in London for 27 years. Having been born into the Church, I received and saw much blessing and grace as I grew up in the Church. London is a diverse and dynamic church, often with many overseas members visiting and students studying. Because of this we had many opportunities to fellowship and get to know many brothers and sisters. Subsequently, I saw and experienced the youth group grow in love and hospitality to welcome and include newcomers in fellowship and gatherings such as FLY (Fellowship of London Youths), Saturday evening sharing and prayers. Serving from young and witnessing the faith of role models in Church has taught me many valuable faith lessons.

Thank God again for His grace, and we pray that the Church continues to grow in Christ to perfection to glorify Him. May all glory be unto God. Amen.

*"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.'
(Psalms 122:1)*

SIS. ROXANNE CHAN

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I share. I truly thank God for having the opportunity to be part of London church. I have many fond memories of going to Sabbath, joining fellowships and youth Sabbath night sharings which have all helped to build up my faith.

Although I was born in the church, my family did not go to church often. It was during this time that RE teachers, youths and older members prayed and showed their continual care and concern. I thank

God for their unceasing love as it wasn't until later going into my teenage years did I come to church regularly to attend Sabbath services.

London church is a vibrant church where there are many visitors and brethren from different places who come to study. Even though there are a lot of different backgrounds and cultures, I witnessed how the church showed love and hospitality to all, reflecting how we are truly one family in Christ. May we continue to show love to one another as one body.

BRO. GAIUS ZHOU

In the name of Jesus Christ I testify.

When I was still an infant, like many parents, my parents decided to baptise me into the True Jesus church. As a result, I've grown up in London church. I've gone through the whole RE system and every week I followed my family to observe the sabbath. In my studies and decisions in life as a young person, I've been taught to pray and rely on God to help me so He can guide my life, and I have been nourished by the National Student Spiritual Convocations every summer. True Jesus church is where I received Him, the Holy Spirit, which is His promise and grace to us. However, until recently, when I truly understood the doctrines for myself through the Holy Spirit, to truly care about my own salvation, to turn away from my grievous sins, that He did not cast out yet by His mercy and



longsuffering, I took all these things for granted. Because I'd been baptised from birth, although I was taught what baptism and the Holy Spirit were, as a youth I still did not fully comprehend what had happened to me. It was just merely knowledge. For a long time I still had second hand faith, doing for the sake of others and lacking genuine faith. In my studies and life, I am very blessed that God has guided me much, but all I knew was how to request things from God. God give me this, please help me pass this exam, help me succeed in life. But never, God please continue to strengthen my faith for I am weak and wavering, help me to seek Your kingdom first and Your righteousness. For in the TJC God has given us the most precious gift that surpasses all other things in this world. That gift is salvation and eternal life, and it is why my parents baptised me into the church. If all I ever knew was to receive physical blessings from God, but not save my own soul, how pitiful would that be?. Therefore, knowing this as mature Christians in the church today, let us all the more not let our salvation be cheated by the alluring but worthless things of this passing world.

Lastly, thank God and thanks to the core youths in London who have always stuck together in the faith to build and encourage one another up, whether that be in evening fellowships, or the constant assembling of ourselves in the faith. Although over time, some have strayed and are no longer with us, we continue as members to strengthen we who are still here and pray to God, by

His mercy and love, that He brings His lost sheep back, until we see that day approaching. May all glory and praises be unto Jesus Christ, Amen.

*"... not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching."
(Hebrews 10:25)*

SIS. ALYCIA YEUNG

By the grace and mercy of God I was baptised in the church from a young age and was used to attending services and

praying, but looking back to my childhood I found that I didn't truly understand what faith in God was. I enjoyed coming to church, but I felt that I didn't know Jesus or have a close relationship with Him. So growing up as a timid child, I always found Saturday night sharing and JYF/Youth fellowships a very daunting and dreadful challenge. I remember feeling really scared and anxious to join in and listen to all the older brothers and sisters sharings, especially if I had to share a reflection or teaching I had learnt from the Sabbath too. It wasn't until I transferred to Forest Hill church, I soon realised that I took all of these fellowships for granted



and I longed to be able to hear all the various encouragements, reflections and sharings again. Over time, my perspective changed and I became more open and eager to listen to the sharings of others. More importantly, I felt more at home in the house of God and started to understand how blessed I truly am to be a child of God and to know Him. I thank God that these fellowships still remain a significant part of London and that I not only have the chance to listen to, but to share the words of God with more brothers and sisters in Christ.

Thanks to God's abundant grace and guidance, Forest Hill was dedicated in 2012. Since then, various divine works have flourished and I thank God that I have had the opportunity to serve in both churches. During my time in Forest Hill church, I have



seen members of all ages devote time to God. Whether cooking, RE activities, attending various local events or cleaning duties. Seeing their effort and enthusiasm to participate in different church activities, particularly the EPG (Evangelistic Planning Group) leafleting sessions, is always an inspiring and heartening reminder to joyfully engage and serve in the church. I remember seeing aunts arriving earlier at church to spend more time praying and sharing with one another, and although there are some language barriers, it is always comforting to hear their reflections and personal experiences of God's providence and the blessings He has bestowed on His church. The love of God knows no boundaries.

Although I am now based in Forest Hill church, London church continues to remain as my spiritual anchor and I thank God for His wonderful love, care and guidance for His church. May the members of London church continue to find refuge and a source of strength to persevere through life's challenges. As promised, God watches over us. He is the life in our fellowships, in our gatherings, and in our service to Him which we and many generations to come can find refuge and grow in our faith.

"They are abundantly satisfied with the fullness of Your house, And You give them drink from the river of Your pleasures. For with You is the fountain of life; In Your light we see light."

(Psalms 36:8-9)

to understand more about God I also noticed how older youths set their minds on pursuing after God and growing in faith together through regular fellowship, prayer and sharing. I was touched by how they helped one another build stronger relationships with God and longed to be able to experience this too. I remember how happy I would be when my parents stayed longer at church and I had the opportunity to join in with these activities. Thank God that these traditions of regular fellowship and prayer were passed down to me and continue to be passed down to the youths today. I was also touched to see how God regularly guided various truth seeking friends come into the church, whether through personal evangelism, leafleting, or sometimes just by chance. The image of members sitting with truth seekers in the basement with their Bibles open whilst preaching the doctrines of the church is one that is commonly seen in the church. This image sticks in my mind and I thank God for the way He has guided the growth of the church.

I remember one Friday night I came to church feeling burdened after a long and tiring week at work. The hymn we sang was "Now I belong to Jesus". As we sang the chorus "Now I belong to Jesus, Jesus belongs to me, Not for the years of time alone, But for eternity," I felt a warm peace from God and my burdens were lifted. I was reminded through this hymn of how much Jesus loves us and before the presence of God I no longer needed to worry about the things of the world. In His church I was able to find true peace and joy.

London is a bustling city with bright lights and many attractions. Wherever you go there is always something to do. But this exciting city can also distract us from God and at times wear down our faith. In God's house we can refocus on Him and shut out the things of the world. For those of us who live in London, may London church be our spiritual refuge and safe haven. Let us take hold of every opportunity to fellowship and pray together, for in doing so we will find that the church is a place where we can experience God's embrace and a foretaste of the eternal rest to come.

CONCLUSION

"And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. You shall bind them as a sign on your hand,



and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates." (Deuteronomy 6:6-9)

From this passage, we can learn two main teachings from the perspective of God's people. 1) We are to continually bind God's commandments and words to our heart and 2) We are to teach others to do so too. Both teaching and practising God's words are important. The binding is not a casual bind, but one that is constantly with us, like a sign or "frontlets" between our eyes. Likewise, the teaching of God's words to others is also not a casual thing, but something which we must constantly do.

Throughout these sharings, we realise that not only did the Religious Education system play a major role in teaching us the things of God, but also the practice of doing God's words was essential, be it through facing challenges or through our daily lives.

However, we admit that just because we have grown over the past several years, it does not mean that we are fully grown. Growth does not stop once we receive the Holy Spirit, nor does it stop when we no longer have RE lessons, but growth is a continual thing. We are still continuing to grow in the church and will do so for many years to come!

We hope that by sharing our experiences, they can be a reminder to others and also ourselves of the essential part the church plays in our faith and service towards God. May God continue to guide the church and allow her members to continue to grow and bear fruit for the Lord!

LONDON CHURCH TO ME

R.E. Students

Our Religious Education students share what London Church means to them, what they enjoy about coming to church and what works of the church they would like to help in.

May God continue to guide the RE students and train them up to be useful vessels in the household of God.

I enjoy about coming to church is to pray.

What do you enjoy about coming to church?

I enjoy coming to church and learning the words of God to help me get closer to him. I also like seeing my family.
😊

Kaitlin

London Church is the place where I gather with other Christians and praise and learn the word of God. Andrew

Class JYC

Name Audrina

A. What does London church mean to you?

A place where I can learn about God

B. What do you enjoy about coming to church?

Seeing my friends and learning about God.

C. What works of the church would you like to help in? I.e., cooking, cleaning, piano cleaning.

2. I enjoy praying.
Elyse

I enjoy coming to church because we get to go to RE and learn more about God.

Naomi

Class JYC

Name Arisa

A. What does London church mean to you?

A place where we can worship God and learn more about him.

B. What do you enjoy about coming to church?

hearing his words and teachings

C. What works of the church would you like to help in?

I want to help cleaning.
In the gutter I want to teach or assist in the RE lessons

2.
I enjoy coming to church because it's very fun I can see other people and learn more about God.
Jacob

but because I can learn about Jesus.

Ryan

1. London church to me means a place for me and to worship the ~~one~~ one and only true God. Get to know and understand the words of God.
2. I enjoy the people's interactions, friendly. I get to change ^{and habit} certain ways which weren't good, and change to be better.
3. I can play the piano but I would rather not because I dislike playing/ ~~is that~~ performing something in front of groups of people. I also don't enjoy playing the piano that much either.
At church, I already do cleaning, e.g. clean toilet or housing weekly / every two weeks.

Pang Fei

I really enjoy seeing my friends.

Isabella

I enjoy coming to church for singing hymns and seeing everybody and writing sermon notes

Kathryn

Class

Name

JYC Ethn Cheung

A. What does London church mean to you?

Home church

Usual church

B. What do you enjoy about coming to church?

Seeing People / Food / Tea break / Play games

What do you enjoy about coming to church?
I enjoy going to church because you get to listen to the teachings of the bible and you see your family.

Kyle Shen

2) The reason why I enjoy coming to church is because I can learn the words of God with other people in the same building and talk to the brothers and sisters about my week.

I would like to clean the girls toilets.

Tiffany

Class JYC

Name Emily

A. What does London church mean to you?

It is a place where I come and worship God.

B. What do you enjoy about coming to church?

After the 2nd service I go with my mum to the 1st floor to sing hymns

2) What do you enjoy about coming to church?
I enjoy attending RE classes and learning more about Jesus and the miracles he performed. I also enjoy listening to the service in the chapel as it encourages me.
Iran

I enjoy the RE classes when I come to church.

Alex, L

The question I chose to answer:

2) What do you enjoy about coming to church?

I like learning more about the word of God during class and service and adding to my Bible knowledge, as well as feeling the strong presence of the Holy Spirit when praying in church.
Shelly





THE EVER-SUFFICIENT GRACE OF GOD

Sis. Esther Ho

INTRODUCTION

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I testify about God’s immense grace through some struggles I have had in my life.

I first started to write down bits of this testimony over 15 years ago. I did not know what it would become, but I did know that it was the beginnings of a long story. I finished the first draft 9 years later. The first person and only person to see this in its written form at the time was a boy in July 2014. We had just started our courtship then, but I felt that he had to know this about me. We were married a year later, and that boy is now my husband and my daily support. For this, I am truly grateful to God.

GROWING UP: CONFIDENCE BUILT ON MYSELF

Starting from a very young age, I had a relatively smooth life. I did well in school. I had lots of friends. Life was good and I was a happy child. I was an athletic person and enjoyed sports. From my primary school until secondary school, I joined all sorts of sports teams. I played on the basketball, volleyball, softball, badminton, tennis and ice hockey teams. I took pride in eating well and exercising, so there was even a period of time when I went to the gym on a daily basis.

I was a relatively intelligent child and won all sorts of awards and scholarships in school. I was confident in my abilities and had all sorts of hopes and ambitions

for myself. I went to business school and wanted a well-paid job with a career in finance. I was a capable person and I succeeded in most things so I was very proud. Over the years, I had built all my confidence on myself and my own abilities. In my first year of university, when I was 19, God decided that my way of thinking was not correct and wanted to break me down and rebuild me in His own way - in a way that was more acceptable to Him.

DIAGNOSIS

It was the summer of 2007 and I suddenly got the flu. I had a headache and sore throat. The peculiar thing was that my right hand went numb. The next day my right foot went numb. The day after that, the right side of my face went numb.

Eventually, this numbness on the entire right side of my body continued for a few weeks. I had gone to the walk-in clinic and the emergency room and both doctors concluded that it was just side-effects of the flu, so I was discharged. I couldn’t quite shake the feeling that something wasn’t right, so I sought a third opinion. I went to another walk-in clinic and thank God, that doctor decided to take my concerns seriously. He referred me for bloodwork, a CT scan and an MRI scan.

For a few months, the left side of my face felt numb and eating became very difficult. This went away a few weeks later.

I had an MRI in September and received word in October that the results of my MRI scan were ‘abnormal’.

In November, my mouth seemed to stiffen up and talking or singing became laboured and difficult.

All along I had continued with my winter semester at university and life as usual. It was the morning of my last exam of the semester that I had an appointment with a specialist. It was Dec 18, 2007 – about 8 am. I still remember it quite clearly. This doctor showed me my MRIs and then diagnosed me with Relapsing Remitting Multiple Sclerosis. I think I was in a state of shock as I left his office with a smile on my face. I took my exam without much fuss and went home.

Looking back, this was the time that God was taking the ornate vase I had built myself up to be and smashing it into a million tiny pieces. My world started to fall apart.

Multiple Sclerosis (MS) is an autoimmune disease meaning that my immune system attacks my nervous system. It is a neurological condition that causes damage to the nerves in the brain and the spinal cord. The term Sclerosis in Multiple Sclerosis means scars. MS causes scars on the nerves which disrupt nerve signals. Depending on where the scars are located, that can affect any related motor function in our bodies. Like the symptoms I had first experienced that summer, one can get numbness, pins and needles, problems walking, talking, eating, etc. Fatigue is the most common symptom and people can experience vision issues as well as memory problems.

The effects of the disease are so varied in every patient so there really isn’t a specific disease path. Worst case scenario I thought, I will end up blind, in a wheelchair and unable to control my limbs. MS is not infectious or contagious so you can’t catch it or pass it to another person. The disease is not hereditary. It is a life-long condition. It does not usually affect longevity, but

does affect quality of life. Research is still being done on the cause. There is currently no cure.

When I heard the news, I did not know what to do. I was 19. I had just started university in a competitive business school. I had a bright future. I had so much potential.

I hadn’t told my parents about any of the doctors I had seen or any of the test results. I didn’t want to worry them until I had something concrete to tell them. I knew I had to break the news to them. The night I had to sit my parents down and tell them that I was sick was the worst day of my life. I could see their hearts breaking and just thinking about it brings tears to my eyes. They were nothing but supportive and hopeful.



CLINGING TO THE PROMISES OF GOD

After the initial shock of the diagnosis wore off, the reality of being “sick” started to set in. The body that had been so strong was failing me. My mental fortitude was being tested and all the beliefs I had about myself were being challenged. This was the first time in my life I was truly afraid. I didn’t know what would come next. I remember that I would sit alone on my bed and sing Hymn 382 ‘Be Still My Soul’ with tears running down my face. When I would pray, I didn’t know what to pray for. I just kept asking God to give me faith. I had been going to church since I was a child and although I thought I had faith, I couldn’t seem to find it at the time.

When I would pray, often with tears, different bible verses would pop into my head. I think God was comforting me through verses like Psalm 23:4.

Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; For You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.

I was in a dark place, I couldn’t see what would come next. It was just darkness before me, lots of questions and lots of unknowns. I felt so afraid. Yet this verse comforted me greatly. I just had to trust that God would lead me through.

He says, “Be still, and know that I am God...”
Psalm 46:10A (NIV)

Also John 11:4, in the story of Lazarus.

“When he heard this, Jesus said, “This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God’s glory so that God’s Son may be glorified through it.”
John 11:4 (NIV)

Many different verses came into my head when I didn’t know how to pray. So I just kept reciting the words of God in my prayers. I often encourage many people to do the same. When we don’t know what to say, we can recite the word of God and the promises of God.

When we have nothing else to cling to, cling to the promises of God. Be still and wait for Him.

By God’s grace, I started on medication just 3 months later and life continued. I went to school. No one other than my immediate family knew of my condition. I didn’t feel the need to broadcast the news to the world at the time.

I am not particularly fond of needles. If I get a flu shot or my blood taken, I can’t actually look at the needle and I get a bit squeamish. Yet, the medication I was taking had to be self-injected 3 times a week. Every time I had to take my medication, the second the needle had to go in, I would say “Hallelujah” in my heart. So it continued for hundreds of injections over many years.

God has provided me with some very kind neurologists and given them the wisdom to provide the proper treatment for me. After a few years of administering my medication by injection, they finally developed an oral version of the drug that I could take in a pill form.

I’LL GO WHERE YOU WANT ME TO GO

I was born and raised in Vancouver, Canada and have always loved the city. I thought I would stay in Vancouver forever. Little did I know the plans God had for me. Around about 2011, I decided to attend the



Africa Ministry Training Course (AMTC) here in London.

I had absolutely no intention of ever going to Africa but had heard about how it was a really good seminar to have a deeper understanding of our basic doctrines. I remember that during one of the prayer sessions, I just started weeping immensely. I felt how much I really owed to God and just kept crying because I felt how unworthy and ungrateful I was.

It was in that prayer I made the determination to go to Africa and I signed up for the very next trip out. If you know me, you know I don't like the heat or hot weather. Many people with MS struggle with heat intolerance because the heat can make the symptoms worse. In the summertime, I try to avoid too much exposure to the sun and usually stay indoors or in the shade or where there is air conditioning. Yet, God moved me to go against my own logic, my reservations and discomforts, to serve Him.

In our lives, there will be many times we need to overcome our own reservations and discomforts when serving the Lord. However, if we put our faith and reliance in God, He will strengthen us to help us overcome whatever fears or shortcomings we may have.

During that seminar, a recurring theme came to my mind which was "I'll go where you want me to go". The first step was being willing to go to Africa for a missionary trip. God was helping me take baby steps and slowly changing my heart.

Looking back, I think it took between 5 and 7 years for my perspective on life to be reformed and rebuilt. I had to rediscover who I was and what was really important to me in life. At times I would be lost, and sometimes even a little aimless and depressed but God helped me to find my way. I didn't want to get married for a long

time as I didn't want to become a burden to someone else, but God changed my mind. That's another sharing for another day.

GOD'S GRACE AND PROVIDENCE: TREATMENT AND LIFE IN THE UK

Little did I know, eventually, He would want me to move across the ocean and serve Him in the United Kingdom.

When I moved to the U.K. after getting married, I had brought a few months worth of medication with me. At the time I was living down south near Portsmouth. We had asked around about getting registered with GPs, getting referrals to neurologists, et cetera. After a while the medication ran out and I didn't know what to do. We were so desperate that we wanted to inquire about seeing a private neurologist but were told the initial fee for consultation would be £250, and a further prescription fee would be around £500.

I contacted my neurologist in Canada and told him the situation. He managed to get me a few more months worth of medication and posted it to me. He did this all in his own time and free of charge. This medication costs at least £700 a month. He also very kindly referred me to his neurologist friend in London.

I was living down south near Portsmouth at the time but we managed to expedite a referral to a hospital in London which is highly unusual. This neurologist was also very kind. It was only after I'd seen him a few times and did some research that I found out he was a world class neurologist that is very active in the research field.

He offered me a newer highly aggressive treatment that is used to treat leukaemia. It was such a new treatment that it hadn't been approved by the health agencies in Canada yet. My previous neurologist was offering it privately at the cost of over

£50,000 or \$90,000 Canadian dollars. Yet here in the UK, it cost me nothing. Looking back, it is very interesting and miraculous to see how all the pieces of the puzzle came together slowly.

By God's grace, I've been able to work, to have a child and to have a fulfilling family life and church life. God has given me the strength to continue to serve Him and I continue to count my blessings daily.

THE THORN IN MY SIDE: SOME BRIEF REFLECTION

God saw how I was living for myself and perhaps if I had continued along the route, I would have been obsessed with success, money and power so He decided to correct my path. He completely changed my life and my circumstances and turned me back to Him. It is like a shepherd when they are forced to break the sheep's leg to prevent it from running off a cliff. I know that He has been carrying me ever since. Sometimes God needs to break us in order to save us.

Through this experience, over many years so many passages in the bible have been etched into my heart. I now know how true and living these words are as they have been my comforters in the times when I most needed them.

I would like to share a few passages with you.

"But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me"
(2 Corinthians 12:9)

What I've learned from all this is that no one really gets through this life unscathed. We each have our challenges to face and mountains to scale. No one is exempt from pain, suffering, sickness (for ourselves or

our loved ones) and death. We all need to face difficulties, be it physical struggles, psychological struggles, financial struggles or interpersonal struggles. We are indeed broken people in a broken world. But by HIS wounds we are healed and through HIS love and the love of others, we start to mend.

My illness has been the proverbial thorn in my side. What is yours?

If we face no challenges in life, we will never seek God. He is our strength. He wants us to grow in our hardships, in our persecutions and in our difficulties. Only when we are weak, can we find strength in Him.

SHARING HIDDEN STRUGGLES

The main symptoms of MS that I regularly struggle with are fatigue, nerve pain in my limbs, and heat intolerance. Often, in the past, if you've asked how I am, sometimes I will have replied "I'm tired". It's why I don't stand for very long, and I am always looking for a place to sit or lean against and close my eyes a lot after a long day. Most of the symptoms of MS are invisible to others. We may look fine on the outside but actually we may be feeling unwell.

This is the case with many of our brothers and sisters, so let us seek to understand each other better before we seek to judge. Many people are going through a struggle we know nothing about. Many people are enduring a pain we may not see.

I think that I have withheld this testimony for so long because maybe I was ashamed to share my weakness. But God nudged me during a few sleepless nights over the past few months. We should not be ashamed to share our weaknesses. I hope that in the future, we can all share our struggles, our fears and our failures. We know that a problem shared is a problem halved. Let us not suffer in silence. Let us not suffer alone. Let us join hands in prayer and help one another through so we can all move forward and reach the goal together.

Another passage I'd like to share is:

Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.
Isaiah 40:30-31 (NIV)

A friend of mine bought a plaque for me with this verse inscribed on it as a birthday gift. I had never told him I liked this verse. I used to love this verse a lot because I was often very busy with various church works as a youth and sometimes I felt

tired. I brought it with me all the way from Canada and it is still displayed in my living room today.

And somehow today, I am living on a street called Eagle Way. God is reminding me over and over again to keep my hope in him, because those who hope in Him will renew their strength. We will soar on wings like eagles. We will run and not grow weary. We will walk and not be faint.

GOD KNOWS THE PLANS HE HAS FOR US

The final verse I'd like to share is:

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

For I know the plans I have for you,"



declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

This is another one of my favourite verses. I share it a lot. It is the verse my husband had inscribed in my wedding ring.

Looking back, this condition has allowed me to mature in faith and understand God's mysterious plan for me. He wanted me to rely on Him fully rather than on myself. The first few years of the diagnosis, I was looking at it from a place of fear. I kept thinking: What if this happens? What if I become like that? What if things get worse? Only now, can I look back with a deep gratitude for God's mercy from a place of joy and hope and gratitude. I

can honestly say that God has given me unfathomable comfort throughout this experience. I'm not saying that every single day is a picnic but God allowed me to find the hope and peace that only He can give. The illness allowed me to really look at my life and get rid of all the superfluous things and focus on what is most important.

Whatever difficulty we go through, however dark the road may look, let us remember that God knows the plans He has for us. Plans to prosper us and not to harm us. Plans to give us hope. Plans to give us a future.

CONCLUSION

I shall leave you with one final quote.

"Do not pray for easy lives. Pray to be stronger men. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers. Pray for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you shall be the miracle."
Phillips Brooks

My dear brothers and sisters, let us not pray for easy lives. Rather, let us pray to be stronger. Stronger in faith, stronger in love, stronger in perseverance.

Let us not pray that your tasks equal our strength, but rather that our strength can grow to fulfil the great tasks God sets out for us.

In this way, the completion of our work shall not be a miracle. But we shall be a miracle.

Each and every one of us is a miracle. In spite of all our shortcomings, in spite of all we've faced, we are still standing here today. We are living. We are breathing and we have been chosen by the Almighty God. He is the creator of the heavens and the earth yet He knows you by name. He has numbered the hairs on your head and has counted your tears.

We have been called to a greater purpose. To something so much more significant than ourselves. I hope that you can see the grace and protection of God in your life, and how He has used the challenges you've faced to build you up, refocus your life and turn you towards Him.

I hope you can see the strength He continues to give you each and every day. I hope that you can continue to serve the Lord faithfully to repay His immense love and mercy towards you.

May all glory be unto God's name.

Amen.



FINDING MY WAY HOME

Pr. Daniel Liew

A NEW BEGINNING

In the name of Jesus, I share a little testimony and some memories of my time in the church in London.

In 2003, I was preparing to embark on a new chapter of my life: going to university. Thank God, I was accepted into Royal Holloway, University of London. It was far enough away to avoid living in the expensive urban jungle of the capital, but close enough so I could travel to London for services. I had to move away from home and into halls on the university campus. For the next few years, I would be directly responsible for managing my own life and taking care of myself. My parents would not be around to keep a watchful eye on me or to remind me what I ought to be doing. Naturally, this also meant that I had to take charge of my faith. It was time to grow up and learn how to stand on my own two feet. It was somewhat daunting and exciting all at the same time.



A FAMILIAR FACE IN AN UNFAMILIAR PLACE

That Friday afternoon finally came, so I packed my bag and made my way to the station to catch a train to London Waterloo. Around 35 minutes later, after repeatedly reminding myself of the Tube route to get to the church, we pulled into the station. When I got off the train, it was pandemonium. Rush hour was in full swing and there were people everywhere! I was used to living in a modest-sized city, so the hustle and bustle of London was yet another unfamiliar environment. Everyone was rushing around with a sense of purpose, so I joined the masses and made my way into the Underground.

Though I had rehearsed the route in my mind, I had anticipated I would have time to stop and get my bearings but that was nearly impossible with the flow of people,

and I was swept along. I momentarily lost my way and I started to panic, so I prayed in my heart for God to keep me safe and help me find my way. Suddenly, amidst the crowd of people, I thought I glimpsed a familiar face, head and shoulders above the rest. I took a chance and shouted his name to draw his attention and he turned around, surprised to hear his name in the busy Underground. A sense of relief flooded my heart. Thank God! It was a brother from the church. Having fought our way to the side of the corridor, we greeted each other, and I told him I was making my way to church but was a little lost. He pointed out which way I should go and told me he would see me later, before disappearing back into crowd. God had sent me a "little (yet incredibly tall) angel" to guide me back to the right path to get to the church.

HOME SWEET HOME

I eventually surfaced from Old Street Tube station and instantly recognised the buildings and the street that led up to the church. As I got closer, the vertical projected sign caught my eye: True Jesus Church. I had made it. After being buzzed into the building, my heart was filled with joy and peace. I had finally made it "home". I was so grateful and relieved that I dropped to my knees in the chapel and prayed to thank God for keeping me safe and guiding me to the church.

That evening, I was greeted by many familiar faces and spent time to catch up with the members I knew. I was together with the church family again and it was a great comfort. After the service, there were two brothers talking about the evangelical work and they were assigning different duties on a whiteboard. Without breaking his stride in the conversation, one of the brothers looked over at me and said with a smile, "And we can assign Daniel to look

after the leaflets." After some discussion, I accepted. God had helped me find my way home and now I had a role, albeit a minor one, to play in the family. It really felt like I was home.

"Now, therefore, you are no longer strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God..."
(Ephesians 2:19)

LEARN TO BE PART OF THE FAMILY

Thinking back, I remember my time as part of the church in London fondly for various reasons. Not only was it my home away from home for three years, but it was also a training ground for my faith and church work. There were newcomers like me, but also older youths who looked out for us. There were older members to care for and younger members to nurture. It would take time and effort to build a relationship with all these other members. There were opportunities to join services, fellowship with brethren, and participate in the holy works. There was also a potentially wonderful support network made up of brethren and ministers that you could connect with. Naturally, this also required me to make myself available, physically, emotionally, and spiritually. I had to be willing to be a part of the family, to do my duty, and to grow in the faith.

"...from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love."
(Ephesians 4:16)

One of the things I learned from my time in London is that no matter which church location you find yourself in, you need to recognise it as your home and where your church family can be found. Then, if you are willing to love and be loved, and are also willing to be an active part of that family, you will always find God's blessings and be edified in love, whilst being guided and nourished by the truth in God's house. Then spiritually, you will grow as part of the family and this family can grow too.

I thank God for blessing me with the opportunity to be part of the church in London.

May our Lord Jesus continue to guide and bless the church in London, so that the members can grow together and shine for Jesus!



GOD'S GUIDANCE AND PROVIDENCE

Sis. Siu Chan

In the name of Jesus Christ I testify how God brought my mother back to church and my whole family to the True Jesus Church in London. Moreover, I would like to share my personal experiences of God's grace and His guidance over the past 40 years in London church.

My mother was born and baptised in Hong Kong on the small island of Ap Chau as a child. When she married my father, a non-member of TJC from another island, they moved to the Hong Kong mainland. When me and my sisters were born, we had no encounter with religion. My only recollection of going to church on those few occasions was to get free food parcels.

Between 1974 to 1975, my whole immediate family emigrated to the UK. Around the end of the 1970s my mother's blood pressure was dangerously high and she was admitted to hospital. She was in hospital for a couple of months. She had suffered a severe stroke that left her right side of body paralysed.

Some of our relatives from my mother's side from Ap Chau who had also emigrated to the UK came to visit us and introduced us to the True Jesus Church. This was the first time we heard of the church. At that time, there were Sabbath services held in Chinatown above our late Sister WK Liu's restaurant called Tin Tin. They encouraged us to attend services every Sabbath. I was about 10 years old, and my first encounter was very strange because of the prayer. I really hated going to church, but we persisted in going for the sake of my mother.

Not long after we started going to church, my oldest sister received the Holy Spirit. That is when the brethren encouraged my sister to get baptised. My oldest sister together with my 3rd and 4th sister received baptism and the following year in the late 1970s both me and my father received baptism in Newcastle church. I was around 12 years old.

As membership grew in London, we needed more space and we moved from the small room above the restaurant to a rented hall

nearby. Most of the members comprised of students from Malaysia and Hong Kong. Shortly after, members started to look into purchasing a permanent place of worship. I recalled when we went to an old church in West London and found the place eerie. We looked at a few places and most of us thought it would be nice to find a church near our home. One day, a brother told us they found a place near our home that was within walking distance. Having received the address, me and my sisters walked in search of the church which was half an



hour walk from home. We found the church at Pitfield street and even though we could only peek from the outside we knew this was the building God had chosen for us.

Thank God, London church at Pitfield Street was purchased. As most of the members were students, we had to borrow money from other churches to help with purchase. Due to our lack of funds for refurbishing the building, members with their gifted talents chipped in with

full renovation work and we all helped wherever we could.

We were blessed that we had a church that was a 5 minute drive from home. Looking back now, this was a blessing in disguise. When we were having services in Chinatown, we could have taken a direct bus to Chinatown, but it was impossible to use public transport due to my mother's disability. We had to take a taxi every time we attended services. God had seen our struggle and I can see God's blessing upon me and my family.

Our bond among brethren grew as time went by because we all spent a lot of time together to get the church ready for dedication in 1982.

At that time, we were living in a small 3-bedroom council flat. We could not afford to buy a house. I had to share a room with my two sisters. Around 1984 suddenly the council decided to carry out a complete renovation of the whole estate. They moved tenants out of 1 block of flats and revamped the flats and surrounding area. We got our keys to the new house at the beginning of 1986. This house was the beginning of many Bible studies and social gatherings with brothers and sisters. Many members visited and stayed with us on many occasions because at the time, the church lacked accommodation.

When the old church started to get too small, members again considered looking for new premises. Once again, it was God's grace and blessing that we managed to find our current church building at Old Street. I have seen God's providence over us in our search for His church and God provides for his children when we put our trust and faith in Him. Many things seem impossible like buying a church building with hardly any money. We now have this 5-storey building in central London.

*Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
All the days of my life;
And I will dwell in the house of the
LORD Forever.* (Psalms 23:6)

"A SMOKING FLAX HE WILL NOT QUENCH"

Bro. Michael Brenyah



*"A smoking flax He will not quench."
(Matthew 12:20)*

Hallelujah in the name of the Lord Jesus I testify.

I wanted to share a short testimony about the enduring happiness of being in the Lord, as the True Jesus Church in London commemorates its 40th year. At this time of celebration, I thought it important to remember the goodness of God to me from the very first: how on receiving His Spirit, I was overwhelmed by an indescribable joy and how this joy remains with me. Often in prayer, when I think about the idea of God being in front of me, my heart is lifted and a joy and laughter descends upon me. It has the effect of edifying me and reminding me of His goodness. I like the idea that prayer keeps me in Him and outside the influences of the world. This also makes me happy. For I like that the presence of

God allows me to be able to move my mind away from focusing on the miseries of this world and toying with them too often. God remains to me a hope and calmness in this tumultuous world which is always in flux.

The idea that God has revealed Himself to us is elating and brings to me continuous comfort and joy.

Being able to speak to Him and knowing that He hears me is reassuring. I have seen so many changes in my life already, many ups and downs, but the idea of joy in God has not changed.

As a man I can only speak to my own experiences. Mine has been one in which the hand of God has guided me in all the years I have been in His church. In fact, one of the very early lessons that I was taught by God, when I was prone to thinking only of myself, was to have a heart for His children

and His church. I learnt that service in the church brings fulfilment and therefore joy, because this is the will of God. It became clear to me that the joy of the Spirit is evident in service.

I have therefore always loved the idea that the church is the vehicle within which we show our service to God and experience His goodness. I can recount so many instances of God intervening in my life directly to make me happy, but to speak of His presence alone is enough.

May the Lord bless His church and make it joyful with the passing of years.

Hallelujah, Amen.





A DESTINED HOME

Bro. Christopher Yau

Hallelujah! In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ I testify.

Thank God for the opportunity to share my experiences with brothers and sisters to praise the Lord's name. London Church has played an integral role in my journey of faith and why it remains special to my heart: from being where I was baptised, to it being one of my earliest childhood memories and how it became the place of my faith's turning point at each stage of my life. Of course, this is all the work of God at the end of the day, so I look forward to being able to share these experiences for the edification of the brothers and sisters today, showing how God can truly guide a soul into His arms.

BORN IN THE CHURCH, RAISED IN THE WORLD

The words: "I was born into the church but didn't grow up in it..." are the ones I usually use when responding to questions about my upbringing. Born in the south of Ireland to a family from Hong Kong, I haven't

had some of the same privileges in my childhood as perhaps most other youths around me have had. Limerick, where I'm from, for the most part has always lacked a proper place of worship and although my dad is a second generation believer and my mother got baptised alongside me when I was a baby, our family has never truly continued a pursuit of faith. My only knowledge of Christianity stemmed from what was taught in school in all of its Catholic practices but nothing of our church. Because of this, it would not be rare to find my sister and I reciting the Hail Mary, attending confirmations or even taking part in the Eucharist alongside all of our friends. One of my most vivid memories was when my secondary school RE teacher asked me what religion I was, to be excused from classes, to which I responded, "Chinese Christian".

My earliest memory of True Jesus Church is my first time visiting London Central church when I was about 8 years old. It was just a church like every other to me. Eventually, our family began to attend more convocations around the UK and Hong Kong and from when I was 16, I began

to attend NSSC and YTTC, meeting youths my age. The fact that I now discovered people more like me was reassuring but I was still more invested in the people rather than the truth itself. Nevertheless, I thank God that I was baptised as a baby, where it happened to be in London, bringing me into the first step of my faith. I consider this as the first turning point of my life with London.

"Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6)

LEAVING AND RETURNING

The repercussions of a lack of foundation in the truth were apparent when I entered university and I began to be tempted, allured and eventually ensnared by what the world had to offer. This only grew progressively worse when I moved to Switzerland for my second year of uni and my high salary then was spent on all the wrong things. Although I never looked too highly on money, we can see that when one's heart becomes as tainted by the

world as mine was, even the generous can become greedy, the humble proud and even the faithful can betray God.

"For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows." (1 Tim 6:10)

Over time, some brothers and sisters tried to message me after noticing some of my Facebook posts and although I did not resent their reminders, I chose to ignore them thinking I knew better. This was unfortunate and remains one of my deepest regrets to this day, but my own failure should not discourage us from continuing to do the same for our brethren today. When someone does in fact humble their heart, it is truly a beautiful thing to see them return, so we continue with hope to encourage lost youths to come back so that even if it is later rather sooner, that they will eventually return.

"This event in London became the next biggest turning point of my life after realising from our sessions that I would not reach heaven from the way I was living, especially after noticing I no longer had the Holy Spirit."

"Open rebuke is better than love carefully concealed. Faithful are the wounds of a friend, but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful." (Prov 27:5)

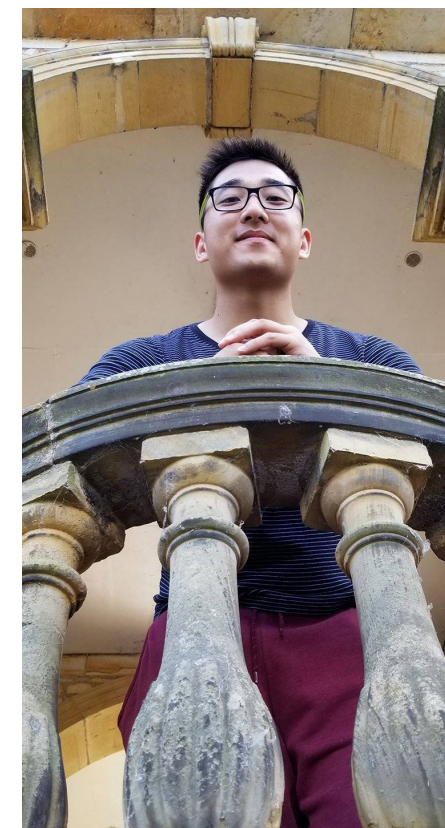
Lastly in 2013, I don't recall how or when, but I received word about YTTC and I simply signed up for it. This was truly the mercy of God because there was no reason for me to sign up for it since I basically departed from God and disappointing my parents was not on my mind. This event in London became the next biggest turning point of my life after realising from our sessions that I would not reach heaven from the way I was living, especially after noticing I no longer had the Holy Spirit. From that YTTC onwards, I'd only pray earnestly for repentance as well as the Holy Spirit for years to come, but more importantly I'd never go back to that life again. This was my second major turning point in London.

"But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him." (Heb 11:6)

MOVING TO LONDON

Fast-forward to April 2016; it was a difficult time in searching for a job, which was compulsory for my graduation and it was nearing the deadline of securing one. I remember the exact date that my parents decided to arrange a 24-hour fast to pray for this matter as well as an ill member at the time which was my birthday.

After I sent out my last applications the night before our fast, the first thing I woke up to the morning after was a number of emails from hotels offering interviews, including the one I would eventually work in. I experienced the power of fasting and prayer as my prayers were for a job where I could get Sabbath off and that if nowhere allowed me to do so, I would be willing



to give up my degree. Yet miraculously, God indeed found me a hotel in London that offered me about 3 out of every 4 Sabbaths off which is considered a win for this industry. Thank God!

Central London church was the first time I had a local church so a lot was new to me. I had to get used to a full Sabbath day, many fellowships, learning to help or encourage youths and elders alike, as well as learning to receive correction from others. In July 2017 after an incident of doctrinal attack had befallen us, the youths were urged to set up our own doctrines study on the weekends. In praying about these matters one night, I felt my tongue start to move

differently and in September of the same year, a preacher finally confirmed that I had in fact received the Holy Spirit once again. I shed tears at this, thinking, "...finally!". Although I still had a long journey ahead with many obstacles in the following years, I knew that it would be all right now as God had finally granted my request after all those years and constant repenting. Salvation was at hand again and I had the strength to continue. This was my next greatest experience in London.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Php 4:6-7)

STRIVING ON

Throughout the pandemic, I continued to attend services, fellowships, choir sessions and continued to assist with London churchwork online. Even now, I find that God's timing was so amazing that He had arranged a job for me back here again in 2022 just in time to help with NSSC in London and YTTC. This is my fourth and most recent point of contact once again with London.

I am not sure why God keeps arranging for my life to keep coming back here, but I am sure it's because there are lessons He still wishes for me to learn. God has granted me enormous blessings since I first came in contact with London church and even more since moving over - too many to mention here but I hope that this testimony shows how God truly guides us through our life of faith, pre-appointing us to places and times we may not expect. When it is so, it is important that we try to see why. It may not always be easy and it may not be what we wished for but perhaps that is our lesson to learn.

"And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings." (Acts 17:26)

I thank our Almighty Father for allowing me to call this place 'home' over these years and how it has been the place where I have experienced every major change of my life. Hopefully this testimony proved edifying. Regardless of wherever I may be in the future, my life will always revolve around London and it will always have a special place in my heart. May all glory be unto God. Amen.

GOD'S OVERFLOWING GRACE

Sis. Lip Ching Chong and Bro. Peter Chong

Hallelujah, in the name of the Lord Jesus, I testify to glorify the Almighty God.

Paul affirms that God bestows upon us all grace so that we are abundant for every good work (2 Cor 9:8).

GOD'S GUIDANCE AND PROVIDENTIAL CARE

By God's grace, from April 1976, some members started attending Sabbath services in a sister's restaurant at Wardour Street, London. When I arrived in London in summer 1980, there were about 25-30 members. For about a year, children with parents from two families in Croydon attended Religious Education (RE) classes at the restaurant albeit with inconvenient transportation.

From 7th March 1981, with 30-50 members, we began having Sabbath services at a rented hall, Notre Dame Hall in Leicester Square, London. Having services with RE classes at the same time and in the same hall was truly difficult. In 1981, the first church board with Religious Affairs, General Affairs and Financial affairs officers was formed at a members' rented residential place in Tooting Bec, London. From then on, till November 1982, apart from services at Notre Dame Hall, we held special services and Bible studies at 3 Beaconsfield Road, London NW10. The Lord blessed us with overseas workers to assist us with these spiritually edifying events. By God's grace and inspiration, and believers' diligence and devotional prayers, membership reached to about 75.

We thank the almighty God, after renovation and decoration works, on 27th November 1982, we relocated to 194 Pitfield Street, London N1, which God enabled us to purchase with financial help from Edinburgh Church, and other offerings. By His marvellous grace and love, there were more than 90 members when the Pitfield Street church building was

dedicated to the Lord on 17th July 1983. The membership increase was mainly due to overseas students from South East Asia. As membership increased further to more



than 120 members in December 1983, there was a need for a larger church building.

By God's overflowing grace, by 1992, London Church membership increased to about 175. This prompted a need for a larger building. With a substantial loan from Edinburgh Church, other offerings and London Church's limited building fund, God miraculously enabled us, in 1992, to purchase the building on 57-63 East Road, London N1 6AH. We continued holding services at the Pitfield Street building until most renovations were accomplished for the new building. After we relocated to the new building, and some remaining renovations were completed, the building was dedicated on 23 June 1997.

GOD NURTURES AND BUILDS, RESULTING IN MEMBERS MANIFESTING THE LORD'S LOVE IN ACTIONS

In the 1980s and 1990s, the Lord bestowed us with overseas workers, including those en route to London church prior to evangelising in Africa. These workers assisted much in the specifically arranged special services and convocations, spiritually cultivating and building up the members' faith. The Bible Camp events in Wales also equipped the 20-30 young participants with more Bible knowledge. These occasions also nurtured them to study together, learn to care for one another, and live together as a spiritual family.

By God's grace and wisdom, training was emphasised according to Paul's teaching (2 Tim 2:2). London church's constant training provided brethren to be equipped in various disciplines, including sermonising, interpreting, evangelism, choir leading, leading Bible studies, literary ministry and RE. By God's grace and guidance, persistent training yielded fruition, motivating some brethren to be full time workers, and the publication of the first issue of "Showers of Blessing" in September 1983. Through training, some overseas youths were significantly encouraged to serve God. After completing their studies, they returned to their hometowns, fervently serving the Lord.

The Lord also provided opportunities for us to spiritually assist members in various places. Fortnightly, for many years, we had services and RE lessons in Stanford-le-Hope and Chelmsford. One time, an overseas preacher accompanied us to visit a family in Chelmsford. After a service, during a prayer, the Holy Spirit worked mightily and members were inspired and some received the Holy Spirit. This was similar to an apostolic time, "the place where they were assembled together was shaken" (Acts 4:31). From then on, God inspired the family members to start attending services at London Church. For a number of years, utilising a London Church minibus, we conveyed members from Croydon to attend Sabbath services and RE lessons at Pitfield Street. It was the Lord who motivated the workers, mainly the youths, to participate in these meaningful works, manifesting love in actions.

Church works in South London started in the early 2000s. The London South Prayer House began from 4th December 2004 to March 2010, at a rented place, Bellingham Leisure & Lifestyle Centre, and moved to Hazelhurst Court from April 2010 to March 2011. By God's blessings, in March

2011, London Church purchased 11 David's Road, Forest Hill, London SE23 3EP, which was dedicated to God in summer 2012. The place of worship in Chelmsford continued to grow after Sabbath services started at a members' residential home. For now, members congregate at a rented place.

From the late 1990s to 2010s, fervent China brethren contacted hundreds of China members who were staying in the UK in various places. In the late 1990s, we formed the China Brethren Fellowship. Members were arranged into about twenty groups. A responsible person was allocated to each group to communicate with and encourage the members, to attend services on Sunday late evenings, very often till morning hours after midnight. Those, up to eighty in number at times, who were unable to attend services in the chapel, listened to sermons via mobile phones. Thank God, through God's grace, love and power, many of them now attend services in places, including London, Forest Hill, Cambridge, Newcastle, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Liverpool, Chelmsford, Portsmouth, Cardiff, Belfast, Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Dublin.

Thanks to God's grace and inspiration that many of the members from London Church assisted the aforementioned works, demonstrating brotherly love in actions.

CHURCH GROWTH DEPENDS ON THE POWER OF THE HOLY SPIRIT THROUGH CONCERTED PRAYERS AND EVANGELISM

Just like the Apostolic Church, the Holy Spirit has always been the power to prosper the church in London. On 6th August 1983, during the first Sabbath service prayer, at Pitfield Street, an overseas brother, having believed in the Lord for more than 40 years, saw a vision. He saw a tree, full of life, vitality and, covered with resplendent green leaves. He witnessed a flow of sparkling water, bright and clear as crystal, coming down from heaven, above the tree. The water passed through the leafy, healthy tree and formed a river, flowing far away. After the service, the brother testified that the tree signified the Church. The Church, "the shelter of the Most High" (Ps 91:1-10), that provides peace, protection, and spiritual abundance, will prosper and grow rapidly, leading many to the Lord Jesus Christ. The river of water of life (Rev 22:1-5) delineates the Holy Spirit. The tree of life portrays a re-born believer in Christ, or the end-time True Church. The Holy Spirit in us is like a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life (Jn 4:10, 13, 14; 7:37-39). Encouraged by the vision,

from then on, members offered concerted prayers to God, especially on the Sabbath Days and later on Sunday mornings at the East Road church building.

God inspired His believers to labour and evangelise for Him. Evangelical works were emphasised in the 1980s and 1990s, especially after we relocated to the Pitfield Street building and the formation of the Evangelical Planning Group (EPG) on 3rd January 1987. These works continued after the East Road church building dedication. Apart from evangelising in the chapels, members enthusiastically engaged in evangelical works in different places, including leafleting in front of church buildings, tube stations, in markets; door to door leafleting; open air preaching with choir presentations; in-house evangelising whenever possible when welcomed. One time, almost the whole church was mobilised to do door to door leafleting, the youngest person



being three years old. This was due to the power of the Holy Spirit with members' much concerted prayers on Sabbath Days and Sunday mornings specifically for evangelism. These resulted in many truth seekers being baptised, including many from different nationalities, forming a multicultural church worshipping God in harmony and love.

Let us remember it is by the power of the Holy Spirit that the Church prospers, not by man's might or power (Zech 4:6). When we offer concerted prayers to God, we are likened to "a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither, and whatever he does shall prosper." (Ps 1:3).

LOVE AND HOSPITALITY

London church has always been blessed with visitors and students from overseas and from various places in the UK. We welcome them by God's love and hospitality. For the new students, we often organise welcome fellowships for them, assisting them to integrate into the church. In fact, we learned from churches in the North, who demonstrated warm brotherly love towards us when we visited them. This is in line with an overseas elder's encouragement that we should show hospitality to visitors, as London is a city visited by many. London Church's love and hospitality inspired some truth seekers to be baptised in the Lord. Indeed, lovingkindness draws people to God (Jer 31:3). Love and hospitality have truly encouraged the visitors and have furnished us with experiences of God's love through our interactions and fellowshiping with others. Furthermore, when filled with God's love, we can tolerate pain, quash fear, forgive freely, shun contention, renew strength, and bless and help others in ways astonishing even to us. No wonder, Paul proclaims the greatest is love (1 Cor 13:13) for God is love (1 John 4:16), "with which He loves us" (Eph 2:4).

It is God's grace that brings salvation to all men and to receive the blessed hope of eternal life (Tit 2:11-13). Therefore, by God's grace and power, let us march forward for the Lord's works to enlighten more people to be saved and for our heavenly prize installed for us (Phi 3:13, 14). It is through the Lord's grace (John 1:16, 17) that we are accorded the opportunities to labour for Him (1 Cor 15:10). But, we need to live a purified life as we are His own special people, zealous for good works (Tit 2:14).

Let us remind ourselves that in the course of serving the Lord, we might encounter unexpected unpleasant circumstances, trials and obstacles but God's grace facilitates us to boldly come to Him in time of need (Heb 4:16). "The Lord is the strength in my life; of whom shall I be afraid?" (Ps 27:1; Is 41:13). "If God is for us, who can be against us?" (Rom 8:31). Our possible sufferings in this life are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed to us (Rom 8:18). Let us cast all our care upon Him for He cares for us (1 Pet 5:7) and constantly bear in mind "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Phil 4:13). Let us pray to the Lord of grace and mercy that we all are able to do justly, love mercy and walk humbly with our God (Mic 6:8).

Amen!



GOD'S SELECTION AND PRESERVATION

Sis. Shavella Loh

Hallelujah, in the holy name of the Lord Jesus I testify.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

My name is Shavella Fei Peng Loh, from Pahang, Malaysia. I believed in the Lord and was baptised in London Church in January 1997. I am currently attending services in Forest Hill Church. The grace of God is indeed great. Thinking back on how the Lord chose me and God's protection and preservation during my years abroad, I cannot but count the grace of God.

Who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator... (Romans 1:25)

I am a third generation Chinese Malaysian, growing up in a country of religious freedom and polytheism. Most Chinese families in Malaysia believe in Buddhism or Taoism. In the town that I lived in, there were many Buddhist temples. I had never been exposed to Christianity or Catholicism and so to me these were just the faith of foreigners. From young I firmly believed that there were spirits, because in Malaysia we would often hear of things concerning evil spirits. My uncle was one who had such powers. When an evil spirit, a so -called supernatural being, came upon him, he would be able to speak of unknown family affairs, health and do fortune telling. On other occasions when a spirit came upon him, he would keep drinking alcohol, dance or wave incense. However when he came to his senses he would bear pain in his body.

BROUGHT TO CHURCH BY A CLASSMATE

In my third year of high school, I became good friends with a female classmate. When we sat together, she would often tell me Bible stories. Each time I would not want to stop listening because I had never heard of such profound things about how God created the world, Adam and Eve are our ancestors and



how the flood had destroyed the world. One day she invited me to go to church together after school (in our school we had a half day on Saturdays). I happily agreed. The church was in a house, not far from our school, about ten minutes' walk away. The place where they gathered was actually the home owner's garage converted into a small room which could accommodate around 20 people! After I went to church a few times I stopped going because I felt it was too boring and the teachings were too profound. So, my interest slowly decreased and I would use all sorts of excuses to refuse to go to church.

MOVING TO THE UK

Two years after graduating high school, I came to the UK in December to study. When I first arrived in England, I stayed in my aunt's house. During the Christmas period, her company colleagues arranged a gathering. This was where I met my

husband, he was an intern at my aunt's company at the time. He was the first friend I had made in the UK. From then on we met occasionally at company activities. We started dating a few years later. Not long after officially dating, he brought me home to meet his parents. My husband has been a believer from young and is a third generation believer of our church. His mother was very worried when she heard that he was dating a Gentile. She invited me to church on our first meeting. The following Sunday was the first time I went to the old London church (Pitfield Street) to attend their Sunday service and prayer. When I stepped into the church, there were already members praying before service. My husband did not bring me straight into the chapel, but led me to the kitchen to introduce me to the members in the kitchen. Actually, he wanted to wait until the service started to bring me into the chapel, just in case I would be frightened by the prayer. The inside of the chapel was visible from a side door by the kitchen and there was no way to avoid hearing the sound of prayer. But I was not afraid or surprised at the time. I asked him: "Do all Christians pray in this peculiar way?" He asked me if I was afraid by the sound of prayer, to which I said no, as I had experienced a similar prayer before. The brother who was cooking lunch, overheard our conversation and asked "Which church have you been to? What is the name of the church? Who are the church board members?" I suddenly realised that I did not even know the name of the church nor could I remember the name of the person who owned the house. All I could remember was the sound of prayer and that when people prayed, their bodies would vibrate. I was actually frightened the first time when I heard the prayer.

"Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:6-7)

From that day on, I began attending church almost every Saturday. During one Sunday prayer service, my heart was very sad due to some problems at home. We faced some financial difficulties and felt like there was no way forward. My prayer that day felt very heavy, I felt life was very bitter and it seemed like there was a pit in front that I could not jump over. I repeatedly asked God many questions, even doubting His existence! Yet God in His gentle Spirit, comforting and soothing my sorrow. This was the first time I experienced God's great love, bestowing me peace and joy that I have never known before.

"These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you

will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." (John 16:33)

I could not stop crying, to the point that the words of prayer became indistinct, even after the bell had rung. It felt like all the years of loneliness, grief, difficulties and helplessness had finally found solace. This experience made me rediscover God and I look forward to going to church every Saturday.

BAPTISM

"My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me." (John 10:27)

When it came to Spiritual Convocation, I wanted to get baptised but I could not fully commit. The reason was my family's worship of ancestors; I felt as if I were betraying my family. At that time, there were no truth classes, nor did I attend any classes on the five basic doctrines or the ten basic beliefs. The thought to be baptised came simply from the faith that was built up from regularly listening to sermons. My husband was aware of my thoughts and concerns and he shared them with the preacher. Subsequently, the preacher approached me and answered all the questions in my heart. I then firmly signed up for baptism. The day of baptism was 25th of January. It was gloomy and cold and the wind at the baptismal site was piercing. With a trembling heart, I slowly entered the icy water. The water was freezing cold and my whole body kept shivering. After the preacher baptised me in the holy name of Jesus, I emerged from the water and felt a burst of sunlight shining on me, and a warm embrace surrounding me, my body was filled with warmth! Not long after leaving the baptismal site, it began to rain. My heart was filled with thanksgiving. By the grace of God, He blessed us with that moment of sunshine as if welcoming me with open arms!

"It is not we who choose God, but He chooses us from the nation to be His disciples." (John 15:16)

"who has saved us and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace which was given to us in Christ Jesus before time began," (2 Timothy 1:9)

GOD PLANTED THE SEED OF THE GOSPEL

In fact, I always had a question in my heart. It wasn't until I happened to read an international True Jesus Church article that I discovered that the church I went to in high school was the True Jesus Church. I was both surprised and overjoyed that despite the multitude of Christian denominations out there, I had never



come into contact with any of them. The only church I had ever attended was the True Jesus Church. God already planted the seed of the gospel in me a long time ago. I thank God that He finally allowed this seed to grow. I had never thought to stay in the UK, yet God arranged for the first friend I met in the UK to become my husband. Everything was in God's plan.

"And He said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me." (2 Cor 12:9)

TRAINED TO BE USEFUL TO GOD

One day I happened to buy a Chinese newspaper in Chinatown. There was a small job advertisement for a company that was not far from the house we bought after getting married. Thank God that despite it being a year marked by economic recession, I was hired. In the blink of an eye, I worked there for 16 years until my departure in 2018. Whether my children had school activities or were unwell, the company was very accommodating and also trained me in different positions. There was a very strict manager who always sought perfection. At that time, I felt that she was always very picky and I would often clash with her at work. These difficulties at work often made me feel inferior. Despite this, she would still entrust me with tasks big and small and kept pushing me in my career development.

"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose." (Romans 8:28)

When I think back, this was all from God's training and discipline. God constantly uses various things in our lives to train us, to teach us to rely on Him and look to His

power that we may be useful to Him in the future.

I thank God that in these few years in London, He has given me the opportunity to take part in various holy works. In my servitude, it has allowed me to see my own shortcomings, experience God's abidance and meet many co-workers to support and care for, learning both forbearance and patience. London church has given those who come from afar a home-like feeling. It made me look forward to each coming Sabbath.

CONCLUSION

Thank God, over the years in London Church, many youths from all over the world have been trained up in various holy works. When they return back to their respective churches, they continue to fervently love God and serve Him. However there are also many who grow up in the church but become lost. Children are the pillar of the church, as children grow, eventually they will leave us, and we cannot look after them throughout their entire lives. Their ultimate hope and refuge in times of trouble must be God. Therefore, we must bring our children before God, to allow God to live in their hearts. God will be their support and reliance regardless of whether we are by their side or not, and because we rely and hope on God, He is leading our way. The road ahead may be difficult and lengthy, but we can go forward in peace with God always by our side. We pray that God will preserve the next generation and the generations to come, and that God may protect the lost sheep and personally lead them home.

May all glory be unto our God in heaven, and may the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be in our hearts always. Amen!

DISCOVERY OF THE TRUE FAITH IN GOD

Bro. Paul Baror

Hallelujah, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, I give testimony. Thank God for the opportunity to share His grace in my life with you all. I hope my testimony can encourage you to believe and trust in the One True God. I have now been baptised into the True Jesus Church in London for 5 years.

COMING TO KNOW THE TRUE JESUS CHURCH AND THE DOCTRINES

I knew about the True Jesus Church through a sister from Taiwan back in 2013. At this time, I was attending the Catholic Church, but I was dissatisfied because I could not truly connect with God. I purposely refused to go to Sunday mass because of this. My parents were disappointed. This sister from Taiwan encouraged me to attend the True Jesus Church on the Sabbath day. So I went to the church, curious about the type of worship there. It is worth noting that at the time, I still lived with my parents, so I felt a need to abide by their rules. This Taiwanese sister and I often debated on the One True Church. As many churches exist, I couldn't understand the meaning of the One True Church. My first experience in the TJC was one of amazement. I was amazed by the prayers in tongues (Acts 2:4) through the Holy Spirit. It carried power (Acts 1:8) and was overwhelming with love. I was instantly drawn to the church, realising the lack of the Holy Spirit in the Catholic Church was present in the TJC. Therefore, I kept coming week after week and inquired from co-workers about the presence of the Holy Spirit. I learnt that He is the promise of God (Joel 2:28), and He is the Spirit of truth (John 15:26; Ephesians 1:13). Praise God in His infinite mercy and love for guiding me to this understanding. I prayed fervently to receive the Holy Spirit, who I received from God. Given the arguments I faced with my



parents about the church, I reluctantly departed from the church for 5 years.

STRUGGLES/CHALLENGES IN FAITH IN LONDON CHURCH

I returned in 2018 and knew that I must be baptised in the name of Jesus and receive the Holy Spirit. So I did. After baptism, I didn't fully appreciate the requirement of being a good Christian and relying on God through the Holy Spirit. So at times, I often reverted to fleshly desires. Living alone, I naturally did the things I wanted, lacking a spiritual companion to keep me accountable. Just as Apostle Paul explains to the members of Romans, I was a slave to uncleanness and more lawlessness (Romans 6:19). Therefore, over time, I realised the importance of pursuing righteousness and holiness for salvation.

Also, given that TJC London brethren were mainly of Asian descent while I am of African descent, I sometimes felt a cultural barrier. Thank God that weekly Bible studies with one of the deacons helped me understand God's expectations and retain God in my knowledge (1 Cor 15:34). The pandemic was especially tough for me, and because of lazy habits and the lack of oversight by other members, I didn't take worship seriously, not praying at times. But it is not so much what others see but what God sees (Jer 17:10). Sometimes, compromising on the Sabbath day worship by doing my things left me spiritually void and aroused a guilty conscience in me. Thanks be to God I am on a journey of keeping it more regularly.

GOD'S LOVE, PATIENCE, MERCY AND FAITHFULNESS

I am truly grateful for God's faithfulness in knowing my weakness and bringing me to the obedience of His gospel through His great power of the Holy Spirit (Heb 4:15). As Paul remarked he is unashamed of the gospel of Christ for it is the power of God to salvation (Rom 1:16). I can truly say throughout my adversity, God revealed Himself to me (Exodus 34:6). It is this grace and the penalty of not obeying and realising the full extent of God's wrath for disobedience that made me take my faith seriously. I thank God for bearing with me and helping me through my weakness causing me to take my faith more seriously than before. May God continue to bless the church and enable the gospel to be spread far and wide through its members. May all glory be to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

40TH ANNIVERSARY GRATITUDE

Anonymous

Dear True Jesus Church in London,

The body of Christ and dwelling place of His Holy Spirit, God's Holy hill, I sing praises to you.

Located 6 minutes walk from Old Street Station, Your building sign is easily missed, tucked behind 'City College'. You are an old building that was once an office, Now legally converted into a church according to God's will. I recall within your physical building, The lift that is always under maintenance, The 2nd floor rooms once filled with mattresses stacked high like mountains, The basement that is always overcrowded whenever we hold weddings. In this tiny space, imperfect as it may be, This is where God's fullness dwells, The city of the living God.

When I first set foot in this foreign land, You showed me a great welcome and much kindness. Through the aunties, uncles and youths in your household, You gave me water, food, and clothed me with love. I remember the McDonald's vouchers, the homemade kaya, the abundant good food you feed me with, and much more. You treated me as your own without partiality, And gave me plenty when I had nothing to offer; What unconditional love! Because of you, I was never lacking, nor did I ever feel lost in this country

Yet I was young and naive— My goals in this world blinded my sight; I could not see the path you were trying to show me.

I would sometimes fail to appear for Sabbath services, But you would move your limbs to reach out to me. You would encourage me to observe the full Sabbath. Sure it felt intimidating at first as I was used to only attending one Sabbath service each week. But you never gave up on me.

Your constant light and gentle nudge gradually woke me up from my spiritual slumber. My soul was fed with spiritual food that I never knew I needed.

Oh, how my heart was filled with worthless things! I thought I was wise, but I was a fool.

Praise be God Almighty, Whose name is found in His church,

You showed me the right way to keep the Sabbath day. Prepared spiritual companions to lift me up when I was unable to stand on my own. Gradually, I began to experience that the Sabbath day truly is a day of blessing. Once I tasted the goodness of God, I finally understood how gracious God is, and that God is nothing this world can afford: *"Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; Blessed is the man who trusts in Him!" (Psalms 24:8)*

There are times when I am afraid, But I remember you said— *"Fear not, for I am with you; Be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, Yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand." (Isaiah 41:10)* A verse that I often hear, But with your light, the Words of God touched my heart, and resonated with my soul. Today I have courage because I know this is where God dwells. *You whom God has purchased, and redeemed (Psalms 74:2)* *You are the heavenly Jerusalem,* *The joy of the whole earth! (Psalms 48:2)*

It is through you that I could now see Jesus Christ By the truth taught in you I can be preserved; Not easily swayed by erroneous teachings And able to withstand the falsehoods of heresies.

Dear True Jesus Church in London For 40 years, you have laboured in pain, But I believe as God has promised, Those who sow in tears, Shall reap in joy. *"He who continually goes forth weeping, Bearing seed for sowing, Shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, Bringing his sheaves with him." (Psalm 126:5-6)*

May God continue to let your lampstand shine in the midst of darkness So that those who enter may see the Light (Luke 8:16), And give Light to all who are in You (Mat 5:15).

May you continue to faithfully guide the fold to the Shepherd.

Hallelujah! Amen.

FINAL REMARKS

*"My Lord, what can I give You?
Such blessings to repay,
Unrivalled love defines You,
I give myself away;
My love I give to You, Lord,
I'll serve You all my life,
Receive this off'ring, dear Lord,
A living sacrifice."*

~ Hymn 121 My Lord, What Can I Give You?

Every second, minute, and hour we have from our God is a blessing, even more so the past 40 years of True Jesus Church in London!

The question is, how can we repay this grace from God? What can we give to our Lord?

Matthew 25 records three parables that teach us how we should live our lives as we wait for Jesus' second coming. Namely, to self-cultivate, serve the Lord with the gifts He has given us and to love one another fervently.

So whether it be the next ten, twenty, thirty or forty years, may we repay the grace of God by daily pursuing to be a living sacrifice to God, holy and pleasing until we are called to rest by the Lord or our Lord and Saviour Jesus comes again on that day to take us to our eternal home.

May all glory, praise and honour be unto our Lord Jesus Christ.





Now it shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow to it.

*Many people shall come and say, "Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; He will teach us His ways, and we shall walk in His paths.
" For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.*

(Isaiah 2:2-3)



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