

CELEBRATING



YEARS

We sense God saying to us: "Stand up and be counted – **don't wait**."

A call for us to walk with Him, in step with Him, aligned with Him – for each of us to decide to make a definite commitment of faith and a commitment to exercise that faith with this community.

The Time is Now

(Exhortation to the congregation for Holland Village Preaching Point to become a Local Conference - 4 March 2012)

Acknowledgements:

The MOSAIC Team would like to give grateful thanks to Pastor-in-Charge, Rev Jeremy Ong, and LCEC Chairperson, Mun Kwok On, for their advice, feedback and commitment to this project. Special thanks must also go to Eugel Yeo, Jeffrey Bose, Evelyn Seet, and the Ministry heads and Lay Ministry Staff for their input and contributions.

And last, but not least, our deep appreciation goes to all the contributors of articles and photographs that make this anniversary issue a loving testimony of our Lord's enduring grace and mercy to HVMC and its congregation over the years.

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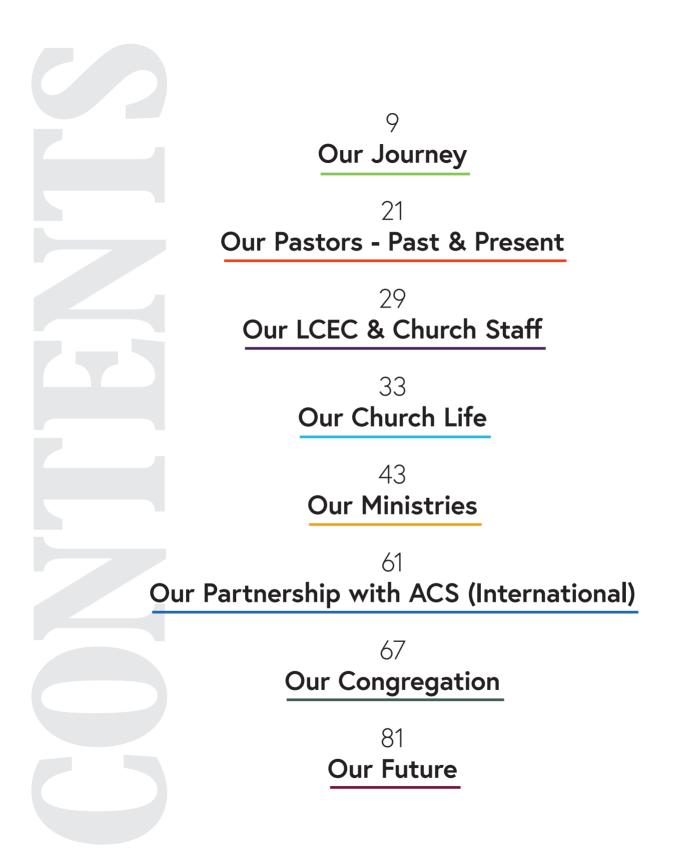
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My Power Works Best in Weakness

(2 CORINTHIANS 12:9)

How God grew HVPP to become HVMC

ABOVE: HVPP's Inaugural Service 2007

BELOW:

Christopher Ong, Mun Kwok On, Tan Wah Tong (ACS BOG) & Rev Dr Malcolm Tan at the HVPP Inaugural Service



The idea of setting up a Methodist church in the premises of ACS (International) was first mooted even before the School opened its doors on 3 January 2005. In November 2004, with the blessings of the Trinity Annual Conference, the Chairman of the ACS Board of Governors, Mr Tan Wah Thong, extended an invitation to Barker Road Methodist Church (BRMC) to take up the challenge.

The offer was accepted and a Preaching Point Working Committee (PPWC), chaired by Mun Kwok On, was set up on 7 February 2005. Rev Dr Malcolm Tan, Pastor-in-Charge at that time, lay ministry staff and volunteers from BRMC made up the PPWC and provided the administrative support.

Members of the PPWC met regularly to discuss plans and held a series of prayer meetings with Rev Dr John Barrett, ACS (International)'s first Principal. These preparations led to the holding of two special services in the School – for Christmas 2006 and Good Friday 2007. They were a way to test the waters, to see who might be drawn to attend a church located in the heart of Holland Village. With God's blessings, the attendance was encouraging!

But it was not until 8 July 2007 that the first regular 10.30 am Sunday Service of BRMC's Preaching Point at ACS (International) was held with about 130 worshippers. The early days of the PP were challenging. The fledgling weekly services were held in the School's Multi-purpose Hall and chairs had to be laid out and then stacked away every Sunday by the congregation themselves. The issues faced were not just logistical. The congregation was small and everything had to be done from scratch - whether it was getting people to lead worship or songs of praise, to form a band, or simply serve as ushers – volunteers had to be found to do the work. Setting up a Sunday School was particularly daunting, but had to be done, if the new PP was to draw new families or cater to the increasing number of young families attending the service. But as always the Lord provided, and with volunteers stepping forward, kindergarten and primary classes began in 2008. Pre-service Adult Bible classes were also held to draw adults to attend the services after the sessions.

In Aug 2008, Rev David Wee was appointed to pastor the PP. Most of the PPWC members continued to serve in the PP, joined by others from BRMC, the neighbourhood and elsewhere, who were called to establish God's church in Holland Village. Even as needs were identified, people found themselves called to serve, often in multiple roles. But for many, it was a joyous time, as they discovered previously untapped talents and gifts in serving the Lord!

To spread the word about the new PP, a number of community outreach activities were held, with members of the congregation again coming together to ensure their success. These included the Christmas@Buona Vista event, involving St James' and Queenstown Lutheran Churches in 2008, Christmas cake distribution to bless the Chip Bee Garden residents, and subsequently National Day lunches with the Commonwealth neighbourhood community, bazaars, camps and tuition programmes for the neighbourhood children in the following years.

On 16 March 2010, the PP was officially known as the Holland Village Preaching Point (HVPP). While non-location-based names were considered, it was decided that the name made it clear that the intention was to reach out to the very distinctive and well-known neighbourhood in which the School was located, as well as the areas nearby such as Commonwealth and Holland Road. We also had the Oldham Chapel, a new auditorium-style 500-seater sanctuary, converted from the School's Sports hall, to worship in.

Rev Dr Bernard Chao was appointed to lead the PP in 2012, replacing Rev David Wee who was due for retirement. Rev Chao challenged the leaders to allow BRMC to cut the umbilical cord and consider becoming a Local Church, as we had grown and reached a sufficient



level of maturity to sustain the primary ministries of a church. The challenge to stand on our own was taken up on 8 July 2012 when the Holland Village Methodist Church was constituted, with 132 members, and a Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) was formed.

In the early days of HVMC, as TRAC's youngest church, emphasis was placed on welcoming newcomers through activities like

welcoming newcomers through activities like Connect@Breakfast, Nature Walks, annual church camps, formation of Life Groups and "Just for Love" outreach programmes to the neighbourhood community and befriending the many foreign students at ACS (International). Fellowship Groups like the Women's Society of Christian Service, Filipino Fellowship and Men's Fellowship were also birthed.

Christmas@Buona Vista outreach event





FROM TOP: HVMC's founding members 2012; Celebrating HVMC's 1st Anniversary July 2013.

HVMC started with 132 members but today, our membership stands at 238 with an average of 280 worshippers each Sunday. As we celebrate our 10th Anniversary, we have much to thank the Lord for - His faithfulness, provision and goodness through the years. May our Lord continue to establish HVMC in faith and in His Word. May we be led by the Holy Spirit to be a beacon of light to the School and the neighbourhood around, fulfilling God's purpose as a church and as a people of faith in the years ahead. Glory be to God!

Mun Kwok On

(Chairman of PPWC 2007-2012; Lay Leader 2012-2019; LCEC Chairman 2019-2022)

Christopher Ong

(Member of PPWC 2007-2012; LCEC Chairman 2012-2019)

And Let Us Not Weary of Doing Good (GALATIANS 6:9)

From the opening of ACS (International) in January 2005, the hope was expressed that, as with the other Methodist schools, the site could also accommodate a church to serve the local area.

As Founding Principal, I shared this vision. We wished ACS (International) to be not only a Christian School, bringing up young men and women to have strong Christian values, but

also to be visibly linked to the Church, and supported by a praying community. I remember discussing this with Rev Dr Malcolm Tan, who agreed that Barker Road Methodist Church would establish a Preaching Point (PP) at the School. A group of us, including Mun Kwok On and Christopher Ong, met regularly for prayer about this in the Church Office of Rev Dr Norman Wong who had been appointed as Chaplain to the School.

The PP began in 2007, and I was

Mun Kwok On presenting a farewell gift to Rev & Mrs John Barrett in 2009

regularly, while most of the students and staff might not be inclined to head back to the School again on Sundays. I was aware of the disappointment felt by the PP, but they continued to pray weekly for the School, its staff and pupils, to support school events, and to recommend the School to Christian friends. For this I was extremely grateful.

What has happened since is evidence of the fruit of such faithfulness. By the time I retired in December 2009, the Christian Ministry and the School's partnership with the PP had developed considerably. The close link with BRMC continued with Rev Dr Malcolm Tan being both Pastor-in-Charge of the PP and a Board Member of the School. Mr Philip Poh from BRMC was appointed the Christian lay worker, helping to run the Christian Fellowship. The PP began a social outreach to Holland Village, in which some of the pupils were involved. A major

> grant from BRMC enabled the refurbishment of the School hall to become the Oldham Chapel.

When I left, we were looking forward to the growing congregation helping the PP become a church in its own right. This eventually happened in 2012, and I was delighted to be able to return to Singapore to celebrate the establishment of HVMC with the pastor of the Church being also the School Chaplain. I have been delighted on subsequent visits to see the continued growth of the Church, numerically and spiritually and to see the developing bond between the Church and the School.

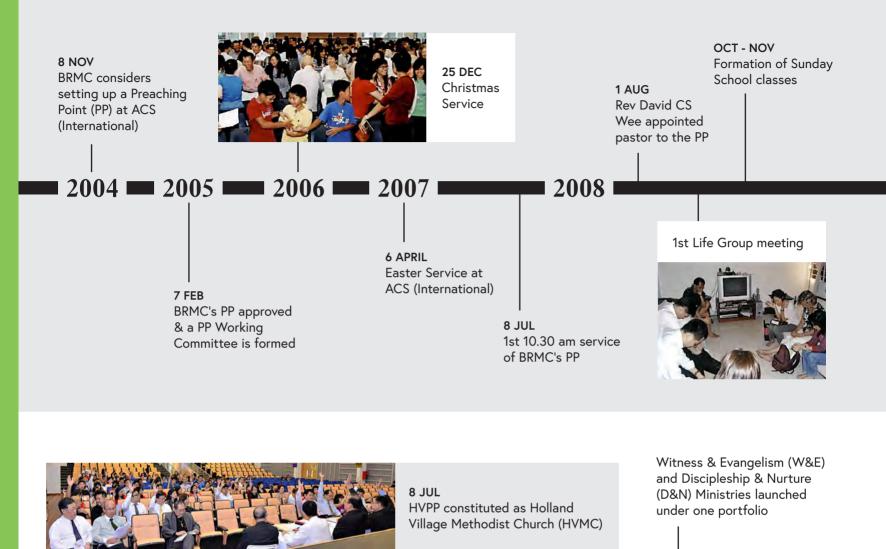
I am grateful to God not only for the wonderful experience of ministry I shared at both ACS (International) and at the PP, but for all He has made possible, both within the School and within the Church. But I am sure, as we say in ACS, 'The Best is Yet to Be'. I send my warmest greetings to all at HVMC on this important 10th anniversary. May God continue to bless you all.

Rev Dr John Barrett

delighted to be able to be involved in its formation, and grateful to be invited to share the PP's ministry, preaching every two or three months, and on ACS Sunday at the beginning of March.

Our hope was that many of the students at the School, and their families, would attend the PP on Sundays, but, sadly, this did not happen. I reflected often on why this was so, and concluded that many probably already had a church they attended





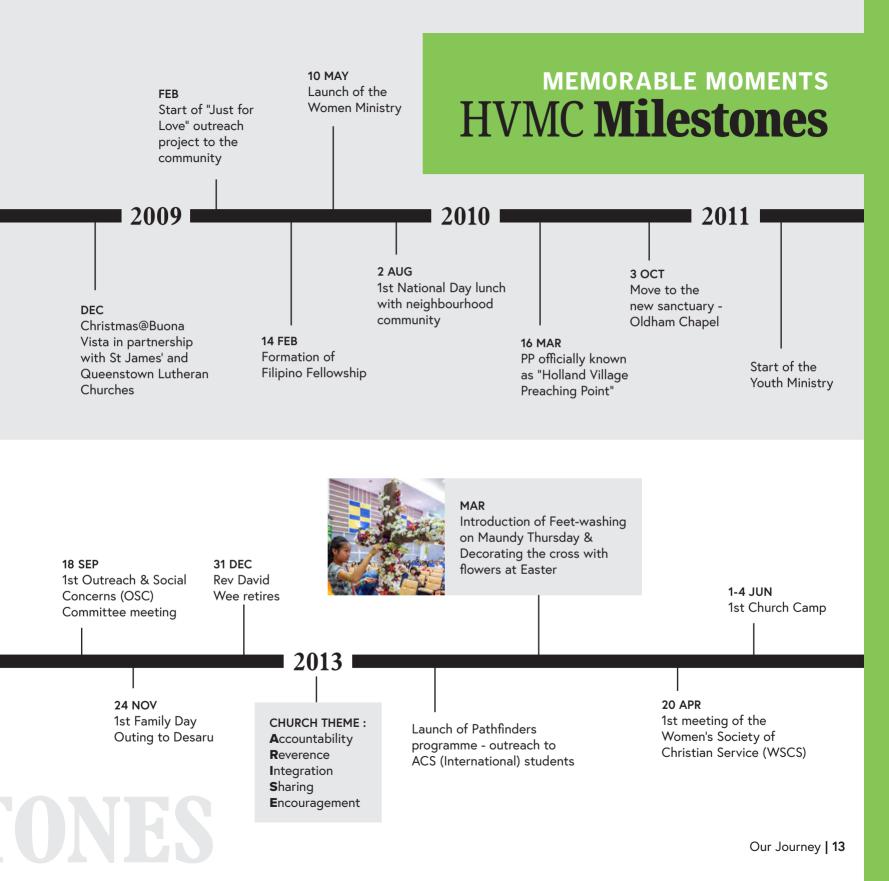
Launch of HVMC logo and Church website

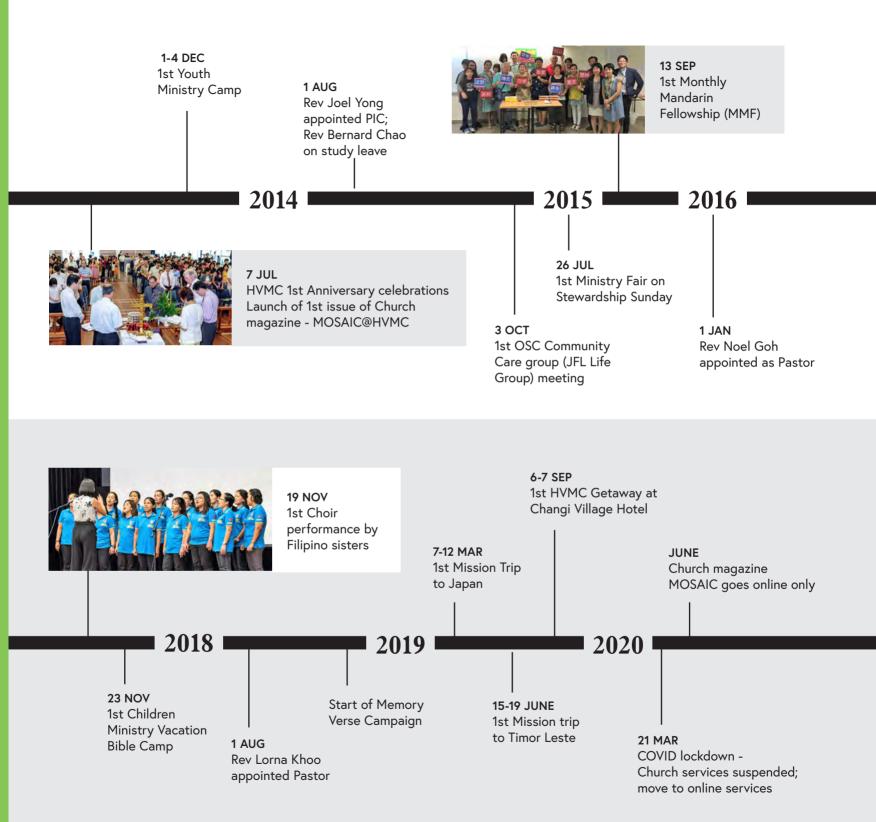
2012

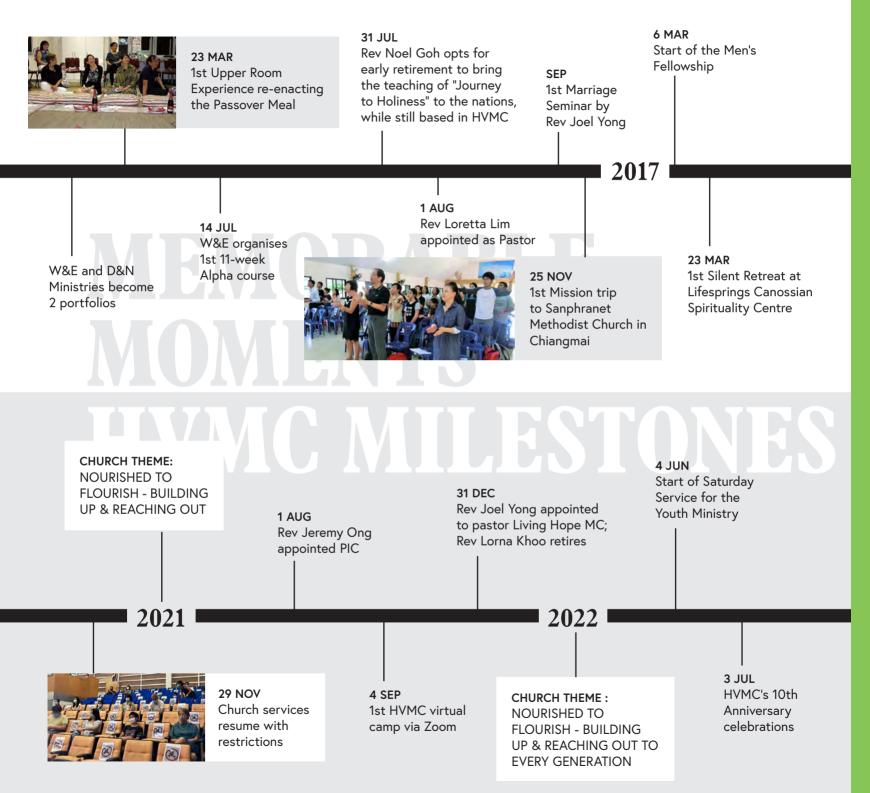
CHURCH THEME : HVMC – WHERE LOVING GOD AND LOVING OTHERS MATTER Rev Bernard Chao appointed as Pastor-in-Charge (PIC); Rev David Wee as Pastor



Start of Connect@ Breakfast for new visitors







The Making of **Our Church Logo**

What's Behind the Holland Village Methodist Church Identity?

When I was approached by Rev David CS Wee and subsequently Rev Bernard Chao to help develop a visual identity for Holland Village Methodist Church in 2011, I started by reflecting on how our

Church came about and the intentions behind it.



We started as a Preaching Point (PP) with an emphasis, at the time, on Holiness, Grace, Mission and Outreach to ACS (International) and the neighbourhood surrounding us. As the PP matured, its purpose was defined as, "To glorify God by loving Him, loving one another and loving our neighbours as ourselves."

This really brought to the fore what having "Holland Village" in our name means: We are a community of believers, embracing and sharing God's Grace and Love in Christ, with all the different communities around the local church.

What does it mean to be a "village"?

HOLLAND

METHODIST

VII I AGF

CHURCH

Our creative exploration revolved around the idea of what it means to be a village and how villages are strong communities of different personalities and talents – If "it takes a village to raise a child", then it certainly "takes a village church to raise a community of believers and disciples."

The Mosaic Motif

As we explored how village life is expressed, we came across the use of mosaics in ancient civilisations to show everyday life. It seemed like an evocative motif for the Holland Village Church identity: with the different mosaic pieces representing the different neighbourhood and school communities, and the Church at the crossroads and centre of it all, connecting people with the Love and Grace of Christ. If "it takes a village to raise a child", then it certainly "takes a village church to raise a community of believers and disciples."

The way the mosaic pieces fit together reflects God's design for the Church, where every person counts. We bring our different spiritual gifts and efforts, to present Christ more fully by our life and service, expressed through our love for God, our love for one another in this community of faith, and of course, our love for others beyond the local church.

We wanted the colour palette of the Church identity to be vibrant and optimistic – reflecting the joy in the promise of the life to come.

The new identity represented the coming of age for Holland Village Preaching Point to be constituted as a Methodist church on 8 July 2012. This was particularly poignant for me, as, having been a member of Barker Road Methodist Church for over 30 years - the Church I had grown up in; where I was baptised; where Paul and I were married; where our children were baptised as infants, and where my parents came to faith in Christ – we would eventually transfer our membership to HVMC!

RANKAN BARAN BARAN

Kim Faulkner





Rev David Wee C S (2008 - 2012)

My Years at Holland Village Preaching Point



On my return from Kingston upon Hull, UK, after serving for four years, I learned that TRAC needed someone to help grow the Preaching Point at ACS (International) into a Local Church Conference. It was looking for someone to also serve as Chaplain of the School, besides being pastor of Holland Village Preaching Point (HVPP).

Humble Service

We did everything ourselves in the early years - we all volunteered to lay out the chairs, set up the lectern and prepare the Hall for service. I really appreciated Mun Kwok On and the team of selfless leaders who rolled up their sleeves to get the job done each Sunday. When Rev Bernard Chao was appointed to HVPP in 2012 to take over as Pastor-in-Charge (PIC), it meant that I could proceed to apply for retirement before the TRAC session began in November. was PIC at Fairfield Methodist Church, and during my service in the UK. However, this time, I was challenged to do it bigger and to expand it to serve the residents in the oneroom HDB rental blocks at Commonwealth. HVPP partnered with the nearby Anglican church to invite them to join us for different celebrations. Our biggest success was the Christmas Celebration, when droves of people from the community turned up, at different times of the day. Many from the Barker Road Methodist Church congregation lent their help and support. We even had three ladies who came and wanted to know more about Jesus. Suddenly we became THE church of the community. We cannot simply be THE church, until we learn to exercise our faith that draws people to Christ.

All our plans would not have been possible without the participation of the leaders and volunteers at HVPP. Thanks must also go to Lay Ministry Staff Mary Yam, who worked at helping us reach out to the needy families at Commonwealth Crescent. God has indeed blessed us with willing hands and faithful hearts to build HVPP to the Church it is today.

Pastor the Community

Reaching out to the community is a ministry close to my heart that I had inherited when I





Rev Dr Bernard Chao (2012 - 2014)



A Mosaic Determined by God

At our inaugural service as a church on 8 July 2012, I had invited Rev Dr Malcolm Tan to preach that first sermon to our fledgling congregation. He did so by posing a provocative question: "Will this congregation survive?"

Your presence today is a resounding answer in the positive. More than that, you are thriving and growing as a church. You have persevered with a dogged faithfulness over these ten years in obedience to our shared discernment that God had called us together for such a time as this.

The birth of HVMC was no accident. Our birth as a church was determined by God. I have always believed that when God does not say tomorrow, it's today. That was exactly how I sensed the Holy Spirit's gentle nudging in early 2012. God was saying: it's now, the time is now.

It was time to recognize that our Preaching Point (PP) was the work of God. It was time for all of us to rally behind our Lord's leading. It was time for each of us to commit to each other in this faith family and to God's purposes.

It was time for HVMC to be birthed.

This was a weighty matter and, like all important decisions of the church, cannot rest only on one person's discernment alone. It required a shared discernment between the pastors, the leaders, and all the members of our PP then. Even now, I see all your faces in the eye of my memory. I remember our numerous kopi chats and meals together, some of which were in my home. Some of us were excited and others apprehensive. But we were all prayerful. In the end, no less than 132 of you, plus children and youth, stepped forward in faith with Rev Wee CS David and me to form HVMC.

The Church logo and name of the Church newsletter "MOSAIC" reflect how we were birthed as a community coming together in faith and commitment. It is also a testament to how we were committed to making HVMC a church where every person matters because this was "Where loving God and loving others, matter."

The church is always a mosaic of persons. All different in so many ways. Yet, saved and called together by the same Lord.

We are a living testament to a living God who can bring people, so different, together. Our unity in faith and life together is a living protest against a world that constantly seeks to deny God and divide people. The mosaic is a metaphor for our "every person" theology of the church. It is good news for the world today: that Jesus Christ loves, died for, and invites to His body, His church, *every* person in our world.

Because of this, let me exhort you with the words of the Introit at our first service to always remember that: "The church is not a building...You are the church! We are the church together!"

Happy 10th Anniversary! A part of your mosaic too.





Rev Joel Yong (2014 - 2021)

Who God Calls Us to Be

I knew when I was sent to HVMC, that it would be a church in its early stages of building. By that, I refer not to a physical building, but the state of development and maturity as a local church.

Like one sent to care for a young child, aged two years plus, there was much to teach the Body, situated at Holland Village. But at the same time, there were great moments of joy, watching the congregation grow in spiritual maturity and in boldness and faith over the subsequent years.

I wish HVMC all God's best on her 10th anniversary; may HVMC always be a place where people come and become who God calls them to be, and thrive where He places them. **Rev Dr Lorna Khoo** (2018 - 2021)

Rev Loretta Lim (2016 - Present)

Growing with the Grace of God

2022 is a special year for HVMC. In July this year, we celebrate HVMC's 10th anniversary and there is just so much to be thankful for.

I am reminded of the words of the Psalmist in Psalm 127:1 where he says, "Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labour in vain." Indeed we would not be where we are today, if it were not for God's faithfulness. We must always remember that when our church community grows and flourishes, it is not because of what we do. We are called upon to plant the seeds of the Gospel, but it is the Holy Spirit that opens hearts to the Good News of the Gospel.

So, even as we celebrate 10 years of HVMC's existence, let us come before God with praise and thanksgiving, seeking His blessings for the years ahead of us. We do not know the future, but we know who holds tomorrow.



A FAITHFUL WITNESS

Rev Jeremy Ong (2021 - Present)

A Faithful Witness



Ten years is a significant milestone for a local church. It is a sign of maturity and growth for the congregation, and a mark of God's faithfulness and provision. As we recount in this special 10th Anniversary edition of MOSAIC, we witness the amazing things that God has done across this decade. Hundreds have worshipped with us, many have grown to love God and others, stepped forward to serve our community, and invested in relationships through Life Groups and other platforms, while giving of their time, talents and resources to build up the Church.

Our celebration of these ten years is all the more remarkable, when we consider the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic over the last two years. We give thanks to God for sustaining us through the darkest periods of the pandemic, especially when the physical church building was closed - everyone had to worship from home and carry on our work as the embodied body of Christ, expressing what it means to be a church, *ekklēsia*, a group of people gathered to worship God across space and even time. We also thank the Lord for the continued vitality of our Life Groups, helping us grow in accountability and raising support networks in our community.

God has indeed blessed us with the wide diversity of gifts to steward at HVMC and I am especially grateful for the leadership of HVMC's former pastors: Rev Dr Malcolm Tan's vision of establishing a spiritual home for ACS (International) students at HVMC. Rev David CS Wee's conviction for our Church to reach out to the community at Commonwealth Crescent, Rev Dr Bernard Chao's emphasis on Christian accountability and Rev Joel Yong's constant reminder, "Don't just go to church, but be the church!" Their past leadership has given HVMC a strong foundation to build upon as we look ahead to the future.

As we celebrate God's goodness to us as a church, our 10th anniversary is also a good





time to remember, reflect upon and reclaim our calling here at HVMC. As we rebuild from the effects of the pandemic, we must look back and see God's direction and leading for us to be planted here as a church on the campus of ACS (International). Even as we recall the wonderful testimonies of our ministry to the students, staff and parents of the School, this is also a good time for us to review how we can continue to serve as faithful witnesses and consider the next season of our partnership with them.

I am thankful to be able to pastor HVMC on the occasion of our 10th anniversary, and may we rise up to be a Church that is "Nourished to Flourish: Building Up and Reaching Out to Every Generation." To God be the glory, the best is yet to be! As we celebrate God's goodness to us as a church, our 10th anniversary is also a good time to remember, reflect upon and reclaim our calling here at HVMC.

26 | Our LCEC & Church Staff

OUR LCEC & CHURCH STAFF

Our Local Church Executive Committee (LCEC) 2021-2022



Rev Jeremy Ong Pastor-in-Charge



Rev Loretta Lim Pastor



Jacqueline Seow Associate Lay Leader / Pastor-Parish Relations & Staff



Mun Kwok On LCEC Chairperson



Jeffrey Bose LCEC Vice-Chair / Steward (Special Projects)



Eugel Yeo Lay Leader



Jenny Bose Discipleship & Nurture



Paul Chew Property Management



Daniel Chua Finance



Ng Wan Ching Recording Secretary Archivist



Jimmie Tay Governance



Eunice Yeo Treasurer



Liaw Kok Eng Missions



Imelda Fyffe Witness & Evangelism / President Women's Society of Christian Service



Lee Tang Yin Outreach & Social Concerns



Daniel Koh Worship & Music

Our Church & Lay Ministry Staff (LMS) 2022



Carol Ho Finance & Administrative Manager



Evelyn Seet Pastors' PA & Administrative Officer



Lee Wan Lai Accounts Officer



Wee Lian Kuanh Christian Ministry Staff ACS (International)



Janine Boon LMS Children Ministry



Bruce Lim LMS Outreach & Social Concerns / Witness & Evangelism Ministries



Benjamin Koh LMS Youth Ministry

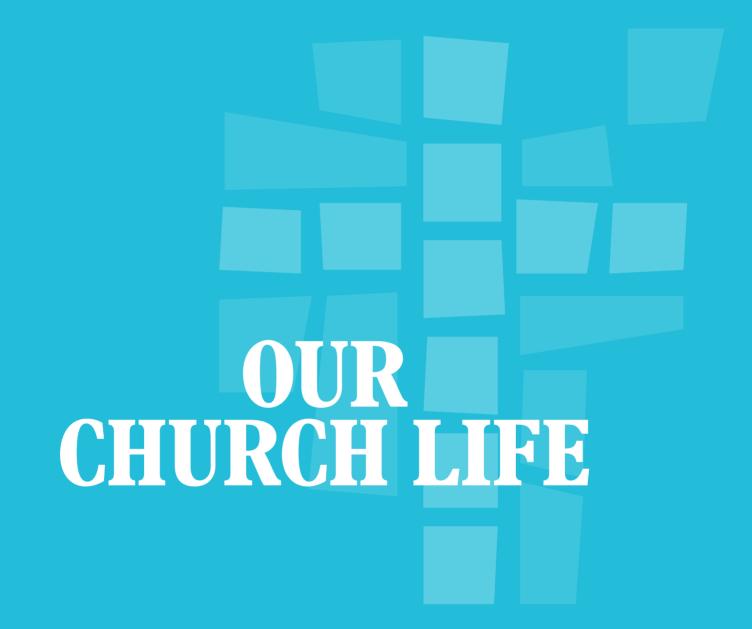


Sapphire Daogas LMS International -Missions & Filipino Ministry



Theophilus Tan LMS Worship & Communications

30 | Our Church Life



Church Services

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP: HVPP church service 2009; HVMC Inaugural Service 2012; Easter Service 2022.







FROM LEFT: 2008 at school multipurpose hall; 2016 at Oldham Chapel; 2020 during COVID restrictions.

Holy Communion



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Holy Week Services





FROM LEFT: Feet-washing, Maundy Thursday Service; Easter Play by Children Ministry; Decorating the Cross, Easter Service.



Christmas Celebrations



FROM LEFT: Children's Christmas Concert; My Christmas Journey; Lighting of the Advent candles.

Covenant Renewal Services on 31 December



DECEN

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Baptism



34 | Our Church Life





▼ 2nd Anniversary 2014





RIGHT: 5th Anniversary 2017

FAR RIGHT: 6th Anniversary 2018

BOTTOM: 7th Anniversary 2019



Church Anniversary Celebrations





Ministry Fair on Stewardship Sunday



FROM LEFT: Filipino Fellowship; Children Ministry; Discipleship & Nurture.



Family Day Outings

FROM LEFT: 1st Family Day Outing to Desaru; Bollywood Veggies; National Gallery.





Church Camps

FOUR PHOTOS: 1st Church Camp 1 - 4 June 2013

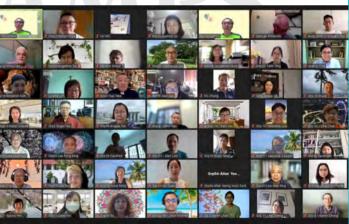












- 2018 Church Camp
- ▲ 2021 Church Camp -"Come Together" - on Zoom



church camps Venues

FROM LEFT: Klana Resort, Seremban; Pulai Springs Resort, Johor; Le Grandeur Palm Resort, Johor; Ibis Styles Hotel, Batam.





CHURCH CAMPS

Lessons through Fun & Games















CHURCH CAMPS Bonding Through Skits

Living









Our Ministries | 41

"Nourished to Flourish" was the

meaningful tagline embraced by HVMC in 2021 to direct our church growth plans. Expanding on the thinking behind this, Rev Joel Yong explained that it was built on the mutually supportive pillars of "Building up" and "Reaching Out". When Rev Jeremy Ong came on board, he and the leadership team decided to expand the vision. So, for 2022, our church theme is "Nourished to Flourish: Building Up and Reaching Out to Every Generation".

In line with these two tenets, "Building Up" and "Reaching Out", let's look at the work of our Ministries, and the progress they have made over the years.

CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: Minister Lim Swee Say joining in the celebrations; Celebrating National Day with our neighbours; Tuition programme on Sundays in the ACS (International) premises; Christmas@Buona Vista.

Reaching Out

It is probably true to say that initially the Preaching Point (PP) focused on Reaching Out rather than on Building Up, as Rev David Wee and the church leaders recognised that God had placed the Church in a strategic location that provided us with opportunities to reach out to the neighbouring Chip Bee Gardens, Holland and Commonwealth communities.

Even before the inaugural service of HVPP in 2008, evening services were conducted during Christmas and Good Friday, to make residents aware that there was a new church in their midst. During the first year of its inception, the PP had already partnered with St James' Church and Queenstown Lutheran Church, to organise "Christmas@Buona Vista", to celebrate Christmas with the community. This was repeated in 2009 in the School grounds, with a carnival and a Minister in attendance. Our young church really wanted to make its presence felt.

In 2009, the Church began organizing "Just for Love" (JFL) projects, such as a National Day lunch, with a designated JFL fund. This fund was also used to offer financial assistance to families in need.

In 2010, when making door-to-door visits to our neighbouring blocks as part of our outreach efforts, Lay Ministry Staff, Mary Yam, observed that the children and youth of the families there seemed to have little adult supervision and were often loitering in the void decks. She invited them to our church, and they were soon occupied on Sundays, attending tuition classes or participating in meaningful activities and games.







REACHING OUT

Outreach & Social Concerns Committee

Therefore, by the time the Outreach and Social Concerns Committee (OSC), with Hui Choon Ho at the helm, held its first formal meeting on 18 September 2012, the Church outreach programme had already made much headway. The OSC continued with organizing lunches and bazaars during Christmas, Easter, and National Days, as well as social outings for our neighbours.

Church volunteers took on the role of Befrienders to the needy families. Apart from monthly vouchers and cash, educational bursaries and disbursements from a pocket money fund were granted to children who showed promising progress in their schoolwork. These school support activities have seen heart-warming results as neighbourhood children advanced to achieve academic success up to university level.

A JFL Life Group was started in a humble community home, attended by 10 adults and two representatives from the OSC. This group grew to form the Church's Mandarin Fellowship, with a regular attendance of 15 members at the monthly services that continue to be held today. From this group, several have come to know and accept Christ as their Saviour.

While the COVID pandemic has curtailed some OSC activities, Church lay staff continue to be a daily conduit, to sense the needs of the neighbourhood, and to adjust OSC support accordingly.

The challenge for the future is for willing hearts and hands who will come forward to show Godly love to people in true need, in our immediate neighbourhood.









FROM TOP: Outings during school holidays; Distribution of goodie bags and supermarket vouchers; 1st JFL Life Group 2014; 1st Mandarin Fellowship Service 2015;

Witness & Evangelism

In 2012, when we became a fully functioning local church, the combined Witness and Evangelism (W&E) and Disciple and Nurture (D&N) Committee was formed under Jenny Bose, to spearhead the twin thrusts of outreach and intentional disciple-making. By 2016, the work had so increased that these two ministries were decoupled and in 2017, the W&E Committee was chaired by Carol Ho.

The objective of the Ministry is to share the good news of Christ and display God's work in our lives, making the Gospel attractive to pre-believers in our sphere of influence. One of the approaches is for our members to build bridges with the unchurched, introducing them to Alpha or other courses. HVMC initiated nature walks in 2018, as a platform to reach out, encouraging believers to invite their unchurched friends or loved ones to join these casual and non-intimidating events. Baking and craft sessions soon followed, providing our volunteers with opportunities to chat and get to know the guests, building friendships, inviting them to church or events, so that they can hear the Gospel and come to know the Lord.



Nature walk at Sungai Buloh 2019

Decoupage craft session



As the W&E Ministry's focus is also to "equip the saints" and help them to "reach out", equipping courses like "Just Walk Across the Room" based on Bill Hybel's book and "How to Pray for Pre-believers for Salvation" are conducted periodically.

Connect@Breakfast began in 2012 when we witnessed a steady inflow of new visitors, and the leaders thought that a good way to welcome them would be to have a monthly breakfast fellowship. This was held in the Chapel foyer once a month on the last Sunday of the month before the 10.30am Service. The food was a big attraction, but more importantly, the visitors felt the warmth during the fellowship such that many of them became our regular worshippers.



 Welcoming newcomers with fellowship over a hearty breakfast

In 2021, with the COVID restrictions in place, we adapted by having Coffee@Zoom, meeting with newcomers online over coffee and cookies that were delivered to each participant's home. We also went about distributing masks to the neighbourhood as part of our block-blessing event.





 Block-blessing through mask distribution during COVID.

REACHING OUT Missions Ministry

1st Mission trip to ► Timor Leste 2019

In the early days, the Missions Ministry at HVMC was very much focused on reaching out to the foreign students in ACS (International) to help them feel at home and to integrate into the local community.

The Ministry only began looking beyond our shores when the Church embarked on its first mission trip to Sanphranet Methodist Church in Chiangmai, an established Methodist Missions Society mission field, in November 2016. Three more mission exposure trips followed, between 2017 and 2019, with our youths being the main participants.

Sanphranet ► Methodist Church Chiangmai







1st Mission trip to Chiangmai 2016

Rev Lorna Khoo's appointment as the pastor in charge of Missions in 2018 gave the Ministry an added boost. When she shared in her first sermon about how God had led two local Methodist churches into Timor Leste, Missions Chair



Mun Kwok On was so moved that he initiated a donation from HVMC to St Paul Methodist School there. In 2019, HVMC saw its first exploratory



mission trip to Timor Leste, with a team of five, led by Rev Lorna Khoo.

A mission trip to Japan was also made that same year, as Rev Joel Yong and the church leadership realized that missions outreach is often focused on poorer nations, thus neglecting developed ones like Japan, where less than 1% of her population are Christians. Thus, a team of four made an exploratory trip to the YWAM-linked Shekinah Christian Fellowship church in Azumino.



1st Mission trip to Japan 2019

At Shekina Christian Fellowship

HVMC continues its ministry to Timor Leste and Japan through prayer, pastoral care, gifting, provision of resources and financial support. Our role at this point is primarily to be "a helper" to help "our missionaries" do their work, as we wait on God to see what He will do and what He will lead us to do, as we seek His plans for Missions for our Church.

TESTIMONIES

Watching God Grow *the* Seeds We Planted

Three of the original members of the JFL Life Group, now called the Mandarin Fellowship LG, share how God and HVMC have made a difference in their lives.



FANG MIN was far from welcoming when our church staff visited her in 2009. She was a foreigner married to a Singaporean, and was facing financial and family problems, to the point of harbouring suicidal thoughts. But she soon realised that the Church only wanted to help. One year later, Fang Min came to know the Lord and was baptised. In 2014, she and her husband, Poh Guan, hosted the first JFL Life Group in her Commonwealth Crescent home. She became a member of HVMC in 2015. Since then, she and her husband have been faithfully serving the Lord, playing an important role in growing the Mandarin Fellowship. The weekly tuition programme had also helped her daughter, Shi Yu, to prepare for her PSLE examinations. She had come from China and had a very limited command of English. Her participation in church activities like camp and outings, and her interaction with the other children, helped build her confidence and her language skills.

"The HVMC church leaders saw my desire to study God's Word and sent me to the Singapore Bible College to equip me. I am thankful to them for setting up a Chinese ministry and for giving me the opportunity to study and preach in my LG and in the Mandarin Fellowship. I am also grateful for the financial help that my children receive from the Church. My family and I have changed a lot since knowing God. My heart is more and more joyful and at peace; even my family relationship has improved! God has blessed me and whenever I face challenges, I know that God is always by my side."

- Fang Min

RIGHT, FROM TOP: Fang Min and Poh Guan with Shi Yu, Feng Er and John; Fang Min teaching at the Mandarin Fellowship Life Group meeting 2022





CHONG SAU FONG is a familiar face to some of us, as she is often seen dishing out food at Communion Sunday fellowship lunch or helping out during community outreach events. She came to know about HVMC in 2013, when she was encouraged by a neighbour from her Commonwealth community to approach the Church for help - her husband had to stop work as a welder due to surgery on his leg and the onset of Parkinson's Disease, leaving her as the family's sole breadwinner.

> RIGHT, FROM TOP: Sau Fong with her children Mei Juan and Sheng Dong; Helping out at an outreach event.

"I am thankful to HVMC for looking after my family both financially and spiritually all these years. When my husband had difficulty walking, the Church provided a wheelchair and later helped us find a nursing home for him. He was baptized in HVMC and though he has since passed on, I know He has gone home to be with our Lord. My children have grown up with the Church and we enjoy participating and helping out in church events. My children even had the chance to perform on stage at one of the National Day concerts and I also sang with my LG. I find comfort in my Mandarin Fellowship group as we study God's Word, share our problems and offer prayer support."

- Sau Fong



Mickey with children Ji Ming, Wen Wen and Hui Ni

MICKEY QUEK has been through tough times in her life, having to cope with financial woes, two failed marriages and health issues, including a stroke. She has had to singlehandedly bring up her three children. Her links with HVMC first started in 2014. when her eldest son attended the Sunday tuition programme in Primary 3, and his results improved by the time he sat for his PSLE. But more importantly, his character and demeanour were transformed from a toughtalking, rebellious child to a more manageable, God-fearing one, who later asked to be baptized. Mickey herself attended the JFL LG in her neighbour's home. She and her two daughters were baptized in HVMC in November 2016.

"I am very grateful to the leaders of HVMC and the brothers and sisters I have met over the years who have shown our family so much love and support. God has indeed blessed me with a church that has helped me and walked with me through difficult and stressful times, giving me encouragement and hope."

- Mickey

Building Up

For HVMC to be "Nourished to Flourish" it was imperative that the faith community at HVMC had to be "built up" in their spiritual journey. Taking care of our own is as crucial as reaching out to others, as these ministries have so faithfully demonstrated.

BUILDING UP

Worship & Music Ministry

Our Worship Team started unofficially from our very first service as a Preaching Point, with musicians on loan to us from Barker Road Methodist Church (BRMC). Eugel Yeo headed the Team, and at times, there would be only one vocalist and a guitarist. God has since increased the pool of musicians, Service and

Worship Leaders, and we now have a stable and growing worship team of our own.

The early years of our Worship and Music Ministry were instructive, teaching us about God's provision and faithfulness. A worship team takes time to build. It takes gifting, commitment and perseverance - all hard to consistently come by in a small church. But God taught us that it's not about the quality of the music but about our responding to His Spirit with praise and obedience.

Looking forward, the Worship and Music Team continues to seek musicians and worship leaders, and to equip them for ministry. We have taken steps to establish an online presence, and this will no doubt be reinforced along with church-wide initiatives.

> FROM TOP: The Worship and Music team in 2010; 2019.







BUILDING UP

Women's Society of Christian Service

The Women Ministry began, in 2008, as a "branch" of the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) in BRMC with a shared vision to help women grow in Christ, encourage them to step out of their comfort zones and realize their identity in Christ to serve in different capacities. By May 2009, our PP had launched its own Women Ministry based on the WSCS structure, headed by Eunice Yeo, who went on to be the first chairperson, when the Ministry became a full-fledged WSCS chapter under TRAC in 2013.

Our WSCS ladies hold Bible studies, and are involved in the altar floral ministry, enrichment and fundraising projects. They also partner with other church ministries and engage in outreach activities like conducting workshops for the ACS (International) students and ministering to residents at St George's Home, a half-way house for girls on probation. At the national level, WSCS participates in the TRAC and General Conference programmes, the latest being smoothly facilitating the "Power in this VUCA (Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and Ambiguous) World" Conference in 2021.

FROM TOP: WSCS ladies at the Ministry Fair; Floral bouquet workshop; WSCS ladies Bible Study group sharing recipes; Partnership with OSC to help sort donated items for outreach event Bazaar.









Filipino Fellowship

The Filipino Fellowship (FF) started in 2009 with eight ladies, a testimony to the fledgling PP's heart for inclusiveness in embracing the Filipinas in our midst. One of the biggest challenges in the early years was that many of our sisters did not feel a sense of belonging in the Church due to the nature of their work. But this has improved over the years and most feel that they are part of the HVMC family now. The strong presence of Filipinas today, not just in attendance but in faithfully serving as ushers, floral stewards, teaching assistants or in community outreach, is due to the pioneering work of Angela Tan, aided by her Filipino sisters.

Our FF has, inter alia, engaged in evangelism outreach such as the "4K Project", spearheaded by FF's Vice-Chair Minda Gomez, with the objective of reaching out to Filipinos spending their Sundays at Orchard Road. Our FF conducted Alpha as well as spiritual leadership courses, offered skills classes, organized themselves into an FF choir and dance fellowship and have been exposed to missions through Zoom. FF Life Groups were formed in 2021 to build up and equip our sisters as Spiritual Leaders. The ladies are placed in an LG and grouped according to their residence in the Philippines, so that they can provide support for each other when they return home to their country. The ASKI Entrepreneurship Training Course, spearheaded by Rev Lorna Khoo and partially sponsored by the Church, provided training for 26 sisters to help prepare them to start their own businesses. Indeed, the FF strives to provide not only fellowship, a spiritual foundation and support to the sisters, but also very practical life skills that they can take away with them.

FROM TOP:

Filipino Fellowship 6th Anniversary Service 2015; Filipino sisters' choir performance during the 2018 National Day Outreach; Christmas Celebrations; Helping out in community outreach; Alpha course.











BUILDING UP Children Ministry

As a fledgling PP, with only one service catering to the needs of the entire congregation, including the children, keeping the little ones occupied was a challenge. The first attempt at catering for the little ones at the back of the sanctuary, with a foam mat and some toys, was not practical because of the noise factor. Thankfully, the mothers managed to source a classroom outside the sanctuary, but not satisfied with just keeping the children occupied, the mothers took it upon themselves to keep them meaningfully engaged by teaching them about God - thus began the Sunday School classes in 2008 and subsequently the Children Ministry, led by Jacqueline Seow. Now, 14 years later, the Ministry has matured to the stage where the children have formed a choir, performed at church services and put up Easter plays. In addition to serving the church body, the children have also been involved in serving the community, including helping out at the various Methodist Welfare Service nursing homes.







FROM TOP: Children Ministry 2010; Children's Choir 2014; Easter Play "You are Special" 2017.

BUILDING UP Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry started in 2011 and flyers were distributed in Commonwealth Crescent to publicize and attract young people to the Ministry. It was a more challenging Ministry to get going, as the youth came from different schools and had not gone through Children Ministry together. But the volunteers, led by Jacqueline Seow and assisted by Lay Ministry Staff Liew Ying Hock, persisted, even as attendance fluctuated from 15 to only two at times. They operated out of a container classroom in those early days, and through prayer and perseverance, succeeded in developing their own curriculum to cater to the youth in our midst, who by 2013, were able to organize their first Youth Camp.

Our youth strength has grown since 2016 to have a Youth Sunday dedicated to them in the main service, during which they serve and do everything except preach. As with the children, our youth also partner other ministries in outreach and welfare activities. Commendably, some of them have gone further afield, participating in overseas mission trips. Before COVID struck, ten youths joined our church group on a mission trip to Chiangmai in December 2019. A key milestone was attained in January 2021, when seven Youth Leaders were commissioned to lead the Ministry collectively.

> FROM TOP: Youth Ministry recruiting new members Youth Camp 2015; Youth Camp 2016; Mission Trip to Chiangmai 2019.









BUILDING UP Young Adults Ministry

The Young Adults Ministry is made up of members with ages ranging from 19 to 30. The group has been a shifting roster of National servicemen, university students and working adults. They are a small and close-knit group, holding regular Bible Study sessions or Life Group meetings, nurturing its members in spirit and in truth, as they guide each other through the challenges faced in camp, campus or the workplace.

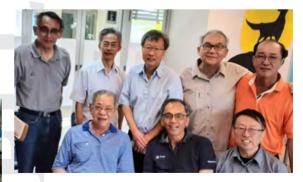


Members of the Young Adults Ministry

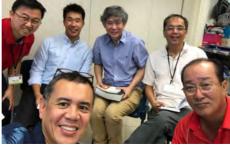
BUILDING UP Men's Fellowship

In 2017, Mun Kwok On with some brothers, felt the need to bring together the men into fellowship on a Sunday prior to church service, for Bible study and to pray and support one another. The Men's Fellowship (MF) was formed with five men meeting from 9:15am till 10:15am, every second and third Sunday. Through the years, some men of MF also began serving through ushering, participating in church camp, Alpha, community befriending and missions.

During the COVID period the MF conducted virtual meetings, initially with seven men, over Zoom. Today, the group of 15 or so has broken through geographical boundaries, thanks to their online meetings, with two brothers joining in from Australia. These meetings not only keep the fellowship intact, but they also liven up the discussion as the men encourage and support one another.



FROM LEFT: Men's Fellowship 1st meeting 2017; 2021.



BUILDING UP

Discipleship & Nurture Ministry

The Discipleship and Nurture (D&N) Ministry has been headed by Jenny Bose since 2013. With a commitment to intentional discipleship in place, Church members were identified, and discipleship packages were distributed for family discipleship. Over the years, the Committee has rolled out workshops and seminars on both spiritual and practical aspects of the Christian life, including Bible book studies and family and health issues; or conducting experiential sessions, like the Upper Room Experience, silent retreats, and "Selah" (renamed "Come Away" in 2021) aimed to create an unhurried space for persons to come away to be quiet and rest in God's loving presence. In 2018, a church-wide Memory Verse Campaign was initiated to help the congregation make Scripture a part of their daily lives.















ABOVE: 1st HVMC Getaway 2019 at Changi Village Hotel.

In September 2019, the D&N Ministry organised "HVMC Getaway" - a two-day guided retreat to bring the Church together, as well as to grow in intimacy with the Lord. It was well-attended by 48 adults and 21 children.

Life Groups

The core of discipling and nurturing are Life Groups (LG). Soon after the PP was launched in 2007, the momentum was gathered to start an LG as a platform to bond the worshippers in prayer and Bible study, and to strengthen commitment to the young PP. And so, from the word "go", the first Life Group meeting was held in 2008, when Pam and Vinnu Vas, who lived very near the PP, offered to open their home.



1st Life Group formed in 2008

Today we have around 115 regular members comprising about half the congregation, in nine active LGs, including those that come under the Women's and Men's Fellowship umbrellas. The LGs are always challenged to support Church camps, outreach events and encouraged to be welcoming to new members, integrating them into the Church family. Our 10th Anniversary celebration will feature a "Reclaiming LGs" Convention on 23 July 2022, for our leaders to come to a shared vision on the centrality of LGs, in the growth of HVMC for the next decade.

As HVMC celebrates its 10th anniversary, the ministry building blocks for the "Nourish" pillar of our Nourished to Flourish vision are largely in place. With the imperative of "to every generation" added, it's left to be seen if newer ministries will be embraced to move the vision forward.

TESTIMONIES

Our Life Group, Our Church Family

There is something special about Life Groups. We have different groups of friends - friends from school, work and church. With each group, we share a part of our lives - our childhood memories, the common challenges we face at school, at work, navigating parenting challenges, etc. We meet, have meals together, share what's been happening in our lives and sometimes we include the whole family.

LGs are different. Our LG which we call "Ohana", or "our extended family", is our "family" group. The whole family is included. Our families began with the express goal of exploring and growing in our Christian walk together. Over time, friendships developed and deepened at different levels. As with other friendships, we share aspects of our daily lives, but with a key difference. By praying and studying God's Word together, we are learning to help each other see life's journeys - the struggles, our joys and sadness - through a Christ-centred lens. We are learning to hold each other accountable for what our Good Lord has taught us. Learning together, sharing our experiences and challenges, experiencing what it means to trust and depend on Him and learning to find liberation and peace in that knowledge...this is our Ohana ...

Thams



I'm a relative newcomer to LGs, and yet, God led Mark Fyffe and our families, not only to join Ohana, but also for both of us to be co-leaders in 2020! We agreed, not knowing what to expect, but it has proven to be one of our best decisions.

As we led, we've seen the heart that the families have for each other, the need to sharpen ourselves in these unprecedented times, the importance of prayer groups and also that through communal study, the Scripture comes alive by the sharing and diversity of views.

Not to mention that I'm proud to have Mark as the "brother" I never had!

Pans

Our family has worshipped at HVMC since its PP days, and Val and I have served in various capacities. But looking back, our sense of belonging to the church community was only truly cemented when we joined Ohana. Meeting and studying the Word regularly, breaking bread together, praying for one another, sharing our concerns, struggles, joys and triumphs over the years, watching our kids grow up and grow in spiritual maturity... our lives have been immeasurably enriched by all these.

We didn't know it at the time, but when the Lord led us to join Ohana, He blessed us with a new extended family as well.

Chias



Churches today can get quite big, and it's easy to just come and go each Sunday without much interaction.

So, meeting in LGs really allows for better connectivity with other members. Without Ohana, we might have fallen off the radar completely during the pandemic! But our LG continued to meet online, and it was a source of friendship and encouragement during those isolated times.

More than anything else, our LG has always been there to support and remind each other that in this journey of life, we are not walking alone. It's about each of us walking together with Christ at the centre of our lives.

Chews



Any believer's personal faith and sanctification process is supposed to be intentional, deliberate and encompassing all aspects of one's life. When the same approach is applied to participation in an LG, this group of Christians can support, commit, challenge and advance one's spiritual development as Christians living life together.

Growing in faith together will require the willingness to be accountable, and to follow what our Lord has commanded in Hebrews 10:24-25. This will involve a road of purposeful worship, prayer, fellowship, service and discipleship.

As Ohana, we have journeyed for more than six years but we still have a long way to go. We have stumbled, wandered offtrack and lost our direction at times. But the beauty is that, when an LG is centred on Christ, the Holy Spirit is always there to bring the group back on track.

Tays

When a few families came together looking to form an LG, we had our reservations – will we be able to get along? Will we open up and share our vulnerabilities? There were many questions. We prayed about it, put those doubts aside and went ahead. It also helped that Ohana caters to the whole family and we could be with our children and involve them in the study of God's Word as well.

It's been more than six years since Ohana was born. We got to know each other better, formed intimate prayer groups, and supported and confided in each other in prayer. We are glad that Ohana has been instrumental in helping us foster a discipline of putting God first and submitting our struggles to Him. It has also helped us put God at the centre of our marriage and our home. Through Ohana, we have all grown spiritually in our walk with Christ.



FROM TOP: The Chees; The Fyffes.





The Sees

Future Seasons

As we follow and obey the prompting of the Lord in leading Ohana, we would like to serve the Lord and each other as a community. Our Ohana family is full of thanksgiving, passion, praise and love for the Lord.

The Scripture says in Matthew 20:28, "...just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many..."





OUR PARTNERSHIP WITH ACS (INTERNATIONAL)

Our Partnership with ACS (International) | 59



Why Are We Here?

In one of his most popular works (apart from "The Chronicles of Narnia"), "Mere Christianity", C.S Lewis writes that when a ship is out on the high seas, at least three questions must be answered. First, "How do we keep the ship from sinking?" Second, "How do we keep it from colliding into other ships?" And third, "Why is the ship out there in the first place?" The first of these questions concerns personal ethics, how we are to live as individuals. The second addresses social ethics, how we are to relate with others in society and the third one deals with "the general purpose of human life as a whole: what man was made for: what course the whole fleet ought to be on." ¹

For us as a church, we should certainly be attentive to the personal spiritual formation of individuals in our congregation, learning to love God as disciples of Jesus Christ. We should also be mindful to instruct our members on how to live together as a community, for that's how we will learn to obey Christ's 'new commandment', to love one another. But the third question ought to prompt us to consider what our purpose is, as individuals called to Holland Village Methodist Church and as a church planted on the campus of ACS (International). For even if all our members live righteous lives, and get along great with one other, if we fail to answer this last question, we would have failed to become who God has formed us to be, and missed the point of the first two questions.

As we celebrate our 10th anniversary, and recount in these pages, we thank the Lord for the many opportunities we've had to be involved in the life

¹ Lewis, C. S. "Mere Christianity". New York: Macmillan Co, 1943.



 ACS Sunday Service 2019



But HVMC's role extends

of ACS (International). From the early days, when our chaplains jointly conducted religious studies classes with the school faculty, to the many new international students our members have hosted and brought round Singapore as they adjusted to a new life here, HVMC has always been intentional to partner ACS (International) in reaching out to the students and provide care to the student community. These activities point to our shared heritage within the Methodist Church in Singapore, as well as our common overall objective to make disciples of all nations for Jesus Christ.

Through our years as a preaching point and the last ten years as a local conference, HVMC has been the anchor church for school ministry at ACS (International). Our pastors, all of whom serve as chaplains with the school, lay and Christian ministry staff plan and run the weekly chapels jointly with the senior leaders, staff and students of the School, and share morning devotions and prayers regularly during the daily assemblies. We work closely with the teachers and students to organise the Christian Fellowship co-curricular activity, and encourage and support Christians in the School to take on active roles to lead the School in areas of Christian formation and education. beyond providing pastoral and staff support for Christian ministry in the School, we also have a call to build up Christians in the School, be they staff or students, and help them to be effective witnesses of God's love to the wider school community. At ACS (International), we have a unique platform to reach out to teachers and students from over 20 countries and share with them the wonderful truth of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the grace which God extends to us all. I believe this is God's purpose and destiny for our Church, to be the salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16) for Jesus Christ in ACS (International).

As we celebrate our first decade as a local church, and look ahead with excitement into the next, may we continue to carefully ask Lewis' question, "Why are we here in the first place?" And may the answer for all of us at HVMC be, to build up and reach out to ACS (International). That's why we're here.

Rev Jeremy Ong







CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT: ACS (International) students performing at HVPP's 1st Anniversary 2008; National Day community outreach 2010; Fundraiser - "Choice to Run" 2017.

ACS (International) - **Our First Mission Field**

Since HVMC's preaching point days, ACS (International) and the Church have been making significant contributions, each supporting the other, working in tandem through the years. When the HVMC Missions Committee, headed by Mun Kwok On, was set up in 2012, it was prompted to forge links between the Church and the international students in the School as the mission field was at the centre of our community with multi nations brought directly to our feet.

In 2013, the Pathfinders Missions Outreach Programme was launched, with the help of Lay Ministry Staff Jelin Tan, grounded in Proverbs 4:26, "Carefully consider the paths for your feet, and all your ways will be established". Its objective was to befriend students and provide them a home-church environment, build personal connections and provide socio-emotional support to students to spur life-long change.

The Committee co-organized meaningful outreach activities for the students to interact with HVMC youths and adults and facilitated the networking of students with each other and the HVMC community. Pathfinders volunteers served through participation in activities, led games and discussion groups, conducted workshops or provided refreshments.

Meaningful ties and friendships with students were forged over a range of activities:

BELOW: A workshop in progress; Visit to Bethany Nursing Home with a Life Group; Visit to Christian ship LOGOS HOPE.









ABOVE & LEFT: Chinese New Year celebrations

BOTTOM: SG HOST outing



The Singapore Host programme was also launched in 2016 with the aim to build a group of befrienders (SG Hosts) from the Church who could provide the international students boarding at the hostels an authentic Singaporean experience, social and emotional support through ties developed with HVMC members and their families. "Carefully consider the paths for your feet, and all your ways will be established" PROVERBS 4:26

Where the mission to all nations begins from where we are at HVMC at the heart of the school community, may the doors of our hearts be always open even as we welcome every young lady and gentleman who come our way in pointing them to the God of all generations - then and now. And the work continues...

OUR CONGREG/

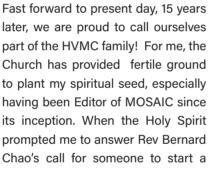


Our Congregation | 65

Editor's Note LET'S START THE BALL ROLLING...



I seriously can't recall whether there was a deciding factor that made my husband and me move from Barker Road Methodist Church to start worshipping at Holland Village Preaching Point. It was probably a combination of pluses which compelled us to migrate – small and intimate congregation, the then pastor-in-charge, and yes, even ample parking, etc.



church newsletter, little did I imagine that I would find myself working on HVMC's commemorative 10th Anniversary edition of MOSAIC! Incidentally, the precursor to MOSAIC was "The Village News", which was a four-page black and white leaflet.

We started with only four in the committee, and in July 2013, by the grace of God, the first issue of MOSAIC was launched. Why the name MOSAIC you may ask? Well, it was predicated on Kim Faulkner's design for the Church logo - we thought that it would be the most logical and appropriate name! My brief to the designer was that MOSAIC had to be attractive enough for people to want to pick it up – it had to have the 'pop' factor! Thus, the designer worked with a colourful palette, to give it a fresh, vibrant representation, somewhat atypical for an iteration of a publication for a church community. Today, we have grown to eight in the committee, and with the invaluable support of the pastors and the congregation, we have been able to produce an issue every three months; however, we reduced it to every four months, since the start of the COVID pandemic, and also stopped producing hard copies. We are grateful for every member of the congregation who has contributed articles, sometimes under duress, I may add (we do have ways to make you write!!!), as without writers MOSAIC would not exist.

Another radical change in the magazine took place when Rev Jeremy Ong landed on the shores of HVMC as Pastor-in-Charge: MOSAIC launched into the world of social media, led by this tech savvy pastor! At our first meeting, he challenged us to explore changing the way MOSAIC was presented to the Church, in order to maximize its readership. So, from January 2022, we started to disseminate articles every two weeks or so, on the Church's website, as well as on its Facebook page. And in April, all these articles were consolidated into the usual version of a digital MOSAIC. In this way, we are hoping

that all the work that goes into putting MOSAIC together, will reap added benefits - that more and more people will start to appreciate the richness of the sharing from the contributors, to inspire and encourage them, in their faith journey.

So, in a nutshell, working on MOSAIC watered that proverbial seed, as did the sermons, our interaction with our Life Group brothers and sisters and other

Service. Group brothers and sisters and other church activities. All these have culminated in making me feel closer to God, deepening a relationship with Him, so that hopefully, one day,

that seed will manifest itself in a more mature Christian.

But, for now, I will keep my sharing short and succinct, and leave it to other members to express how HVMC has shaped their lives and enhanced their walk with Christ!

May Oon

LEFT FROM TOP: May and Kevin Foo recruiting writers at the Ministry Fair; Launch of the 1st issue of MOSAIC in July 2013 during HVMC's 1st Anniversary Service.

A Faith Journey



On 8 November 2004, TRAC President, Rev Dr Isaac Lim, invited Barker Road Methodist Church to consider setting up a preaching point at ACS (International). The opportunity of having a church within a Methodist School to reach out to the new ACS community was compelling. BRMC's LCEC started the process of seeking God's direction for this proposal.

In 2006, at one of BRMC's prayer watches, I was led to read Isaiah 43:19, "For I am about to do something new. See, I have already begun!", and sensed that God was convicting me that my season at BRMC was ending. But I had been in BRMC since my Boys' Brigade days in 1967, and was reluctant to uproot myself from my comfort zone to do "something new". However, God's call to me was to let go of my attachment to BRMC and prepare the groundwork of setting up a preaching point. A working committee, chaired by me, was formed for the launch of the Preaching Point in December 2007.

Over the years, my faith journey has been to "Trust and obey, for there is no other way". God has been faithful and provided the pastors, staff, worshippers and volunteers to run the services, leading to the formation of HVMC as a Local Church in July 2012.

When we needed a communion table, Edwin Tan,

a BRMC member, built us one with the wood from the tembusu tree at the former Bishop's house at Barker Road. This wood had been left-over after building the communion

LEFT: Kwok On (far right) and the Communion table during HVPP's 1st Anniversary Service 2008

table at BRMC. The table serves as a reminder, that HVMC's roots go back to our mother church and we both have a common bond.

Mun Kwok On

A Church for Our Neighbours



My husband and I first visited BRMC'S Preaching Point at ACS(International), out of curiosity in 2008, but we soon became regulars as we were keen to be part of their outreach plans.

Rev David Wee and Mun Kwok On had shared about the PP's vision to reach out to the neighbouring community, just beyond the school gates. When Lay Ministry Staff Mary Yam, encouraged us to befriend a needy family and invited us to form an ad hoc committee to organise a National Day event for the Commonwealth residents, we readily agreed. Three of us from this Committee went on to form HVMC's Outreach and Social Concerns (OSC) Committee in 2012. I was inspired by the love and compassion Mary had for our neighbours, especially those living in the one-room rental blocks. As she visited their homes to assess their needs, she knew many of them by name, and she was "Auntie Mary" to them. Rev David Wee mingled with and knew our neighbours well too. In fact, the first Befriendee assigned to us was a young widow he had met at the void deck where her husband's wake was held, and he knew that she would be in need of spiritual and financial support.

Our small OSC Committee of five, continued to organise mass events and outings annually, for years after, and I have found it fulfilling to be involved

because they brought the Church, School and community together. Volunteers from other Church ministries, the congregation, students from ACS (International) and the community folk themselves could be counted on to make the

LEFT: Yee Lan and Maurice Low with Sandran Lie, preparing supermarket vouchers and goodie bags for distribution to our neighbours

events a success. The activities also introduced HVMC to our neighbours - that there is a church in their midst, we are here for them, and most importantly, that Jesus loves them.

Low Yee Lan

Answering God's Call



When Karen and I first responded to our Life Group brother, Mun Kwok On's rallying call in mid-2007 to support a church-planting initiative by Barker Road Methodist Church, we knew instinctively and ambivalently that the work ahead was plentiful but the labourers, invariably few (Matthew 9:37). The expected commitment in teller, ushering and other ad hoc duties, far exceeded our weekly clockwork routine of worship service and monthly teller duty. Our first child was also due in a matter of months.

However, our ensuing five years at the youngest Methodist church in July 2012, was a prized lesson in trust, as we witnessed first-hand, God's provision in innumerable ways. The modest number of pioneer congregants was engaged across the core ministries. Besides contributing as worship leader and communion steward, my primary responsibility was to set up the collection and accounting protocols for our tithes and offerings.

Taking a leaf from BRMC's playbook, recruitment, on-the-job training and deployment of the first 10 tellers began in earnest. Initially, upon tallying and fastening securely each Sunday's collection in a tote bag, the pair of duty tellers would immediately drive to BRMC and hand deliver the offering for safekeeping. The Preaching Point's prompt installation of a small safe did alleviate the risks and impracticalities of this interim arrangement.

"Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send

out workers into his harvest field." (Matthew 9:38). He has truly been steadfast in guiding our paths in the last 15 years towards the first glimmer of "reaching out to those

LEFT: Aaron serving communion during the Preaching Point days

lost and in need of God's love, truth and grace."

Aaron Chong

We Serve...Because Jesus First Served





Andy and I started our HVMC journey when it was still a preaching point, with makeshift chairs in the ACS (International) School hall. We were the first couple to be married by the Church in 2010, solemnised by Rev David Wee. Both of us were then based in Shanghai, and could only plan our wedding during our trips back to Singapore, and this included allocating time for pre-marital counselling sessions with him.

Back in Singapore, we helped facilitate the Tenang Life Group, where we secretly enjoy being the youngest, thus benefiting from the vast knowledge and sharing from the group. We are also part of Alex and Janine's Life Group, mainly for the kids.

Having sat in many Sunday school sessions when our girls were younger, I eventually volunteered

to be part of the Children Ministry. Andy serves on both the Finance and the Discipleship and Nurture Committees. It was a timely

BOTTOM LEFT:

The Jalan Tenang Life Group

reminder to us, when Rev Jeremy Ong mentioned that we serve because Jesus first served us.

HVMC has definitely become a big part of our family's journey!

Audrey Cheong

Walking with the Good Lord



My family and I started attending HVMC regularly in August 2015 and became members soon after.

I remember being approached by one of the leaders in the Church to serve. I started serving in the Women's Society of Christian Service (WSCS) and subsequently in the Discipleship and Nurture Ministry and then in the Witness and Evangelism Ministry with my husband. Serving is learning to walk in faith in Christ Jesus, learning to love others, learning to respect others, learning to see others' viewpoints and learning to submit to one another as unto the Lord.

Every one of us is walking in our faith journey, walking in the path of righteousness. It is not fun

to walk alone; sometimes it feels good to walk with someone or even with a group of friends. When we serve, we are never alone as we serve

LEFT: Imelda and Mark with Cameron, William and James

alongside others and we have God who will always be with us.

Serving is an act of obedience to God and obedience is a natural response from someone who has been receiving God's love, grace, goodness and faithfulness.

On this 10th anniversary, I would like to thank God for HVMC and for all the opportunities He has given to me to be of service to Him in His church.

Imelda Fyffe

HOME SWEET Home Sweet Home



My wife and I have been Methodists since we were children, but along the way in our adult life, we had allowed our faith to grow lukewarm - we even stopped attending church. Thankfully, in late 2015, we sensed a calling from our Shepherd to return to the sheep's pen from the wilderness, and so we started to look for a church to settle into. We attended service at two other churches for a short while, but sensed that neither would be our new spiritual home. Just before Good Friday in 2016, we came across HVMC, and decided to attend the Good Friday service there. We immediately knew we had found our home! In time, we became members of the HVMC family and have since gotten to know many people, been involved in various

Church ministries and have attended Bible study for some years now.

We give thanks and praise to God for looking for His two lost sheep who had wandered off. We also LEFT: Daniel and Sharon helping out at a community outreach event

thank and praise God for leading, providing for, and growing HVMC over the last 10 years. May God continue to lead us so that we may be His light in this world.

Daniel Chua

We Are the Church Together



When my wife Margaret and I returned, after two decades overseas, to our usual church, we felt lost. Our friends had moved to different services or churches.

Hearing that my friend, Rev David Wee, had started a Preaching Point at ACS (International), we visited, as tourists. We immediately felt at home. I recall the warm hospitality of ushers, Charles and Elaine Sim, and noticed that the sharing of God's peace was not perfunctory. For four or five minutes, we walked around the auditorium, recognising the mix of young and old brothers and sisters in Christ. This warmth continued after worship, over coffee and buns, and on the first Sunday of each month, over lunch. We made many friends.

We soon realised the Preaching Point was not a spectator organisation when we participated in meticulously planned "Just For Love" events, where we fellowshipped with neighbourhood families over lunch. We assisted, as volunteers, as they helped themselves to clothes, books, toys and household items so generously donated by Church members and lovingly sorted by the WSCS, Filipino Fellowship and ACS (International) students. We distributed supermarket vouchers and provisions to the many families who came. These hours were enriching.

Our engagement deepened as Befrienders to participants, during Alpha courses. Church camps were special. We developed great relationships worshipping, learning, playing and eating!

Our knowledge of our faith deepened over the years, from sermons by our gifted pastors, and the several seminars we attended. The lesson



from one was jolting: No sin is greater or smaller. God hates even the smallest sin. But He loves all sinners when they turn to him.

Our experience in HVMC is that the more you engage, the more you are blessed. After all, WE are the Church.

Vijendran Alfreds

My Heart was Strangely Warmed

In 2011, two of my former schoolmates told me about a new preaching point at ACS (International). Rev Bernard Chao was to be the Pastor-in-Charge, while Christopher Ong would be one of the church leaders. I was moved by the Holy Spirit to be part of their church planting efforts and promptly volunteered to be a Scripture Reader at Sunday services. Back then I was also attending the 8.30 am service at Barker Road Methodist Church with my mother, and many friends asked me why I was worshipping at two churches, rushing from an 8.30am to a 10.30am service at two locations. BRMC was the church where I had accepted Jesus and attended Sunday School; I had many friends there and was happy. But, borrowing John Wesley's famous words, "my heart was strangely warmed" at HVPP and it prompted me to keep attending, Sunday after Sunday. I was also getting more involved and served in our first church camp committee and joined the MOSAIC editorial team.

I particularly enjoy working on the MOSAIC church magazine. I like meeting new people and when possible, try to encourage them to contribute articles for our publication. My faith in Christ and my spiritual walk grew too, as I read

the many meaningful and touching stories shared by Church members. I have also developed close friendships in the MOSAIC

LEFT: Kevin and Rachel with Eliza

team, in fact, May Oon, the editor, became my daughter's godmother. Recently, my wife and daughter were baptised at HVMC. Indeed, I have a lot to thank God for, and sending me to HVMC is His blessing to me and my family.

Kevin Foo

The Family That Prays Together



My son Adrian, his wife Channie, and their children, Sanders and Drew, were part of the early congregation of Holland Village Preaching Point. A few years ago, my wife Pat and I, were encouraged to move from Barker Road Methodist Church to HVMC, and we are now three generations of believers worshipping together. I can safely speak for the family, that we have derived considerable benefit from the Church sermons and have gained a better understanding of God's Word. In this way, we always receive guidance for our values and the way God wants us to live our lives.

LEFT: Sachi and Pat with Adrian and Channie, Sanders and Drew

HVMC actively encourages the formation of Life Groups and as members of such groups, we have been blessed and benefitted from the collective effort of our Life Group members to have a better understanding of His Word.

A Prayer in conclusion:

We thank you LORD for the Body of Christ which started as a Preaching Point. Through your Grace and Guidance, it grew spiritually and numerically, and HVMC was born in 2012. We pray that our Church will continue to be vibrant and will continue to be filled with your Power and Grace.

In the name of Jesus

Sachi Saurajen

From a Shrub to a Tree



I started attending HVMC in 2009, even before I was born. My parents were part of the pioneering congregants of a church-planting initiative by Barker Road Methodist Church two years before.

My earliest memory of attending preschool was at John Wesley hall, where the Children Ministry (CM) had worship and Sunday school lessons. I fondly recall lots of movement and singing with Jana Alayra's worship songs.

As my mum was a Sunday school teacher, I often helped her to arrange tables and chairs in the spacious hall. Mum would tell bible stories using picture slides, and I would eagerly hold up the slides for her. Activities everyone looked forward to, were the much-enjoyed craft sessions and the annual lunar New Year decoration-making sessions. With teachers guiding and helping us, we made lanterns using red packets one year, and painted cherry blossoms with our fingers another year. Children's Day was another special time of the year, where all the primary school kids played games at the Sports Hall. A particular memory that still brings a smile to me, was making a human mummy with toilet paper.

As I grew older, I recall my family going for outings, exploring places like the National Gallery and Bukit Chandu and the Bollywood farm experience. Growing up at HVMC made me realize that this

community is like a big family, where loving God and loving others matter.

The Church's ethos of "Nourished to Flourish", reminds me of my tiny role in an Easter performance where I played a tree. I liken myself to a shrub in terms of my faith journey growing

FROM LEFT:

13-year old Samuel is currently in the Youth Ministry; Karen Chong with Samuel and Sarah in the "Cry Room" in 2010.

up with the CM. Now that I have moved on to the Youth Ministry, I hope this shrub will continue to soak in the Bible-based teachings and grow to be a tree that bears fruit to bless others.

Samuel Chong

Growing with the Church



I was 16 years old when I came to know about a church in my neighbourhood in 2009. When one of the Church staff visited us and found out that my family needed financial aid, not only did we receive financial support, the Church also offered me a job, helping to set up the audiovisual equipment for Sunday services. Initially, I accepted an allowance but after a while, I felt that it wasn't right to take money from a church, so I helped out for free.

As I sat through the services, the sermons which initially seemed boring, soon began to make sense. I tried hard to understand the meaning of God's Word being preached, and Church staff and friends in the congregation helped explain the lessons to me. Then in 2014, I was convicted to commit my life to God, and was baptized on 27 July.

I am now 29 years old and indeed I can say, I have grown with the Church, thanks to God and to the people who have come into my life to build me up spiritually (and who have also been generously feeding me physically). Eugel and Eunice Yeo, who started off as my Befrienders, have become my spiritual parents, caring and looking out for me. I'm often invited to join other families and friends for their Sunday lunch outings, and I appreciate their friendship and encouragement. My Life Group members have

been my strength and my support. I am grateful to HVMC for giving me the opportunity to lead a Life Group and to attend the Young Methodist Leaders Conference 2022. I believe that God has blessed me all these years, serving

FROM LEFT: With his LG members – Janice, Kah Hoe, Zhi Ling and Mark; With Eugel and Eunice after his recent graudation from NTU.

and growing in a Church where loving God and loving others matter.

Desmond Lou

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What the Next 10 Years Will Look Like



God's call to His Church is not subject to trends. We may articulate our mission differently through the years, but the Word of God tells us that our commission is to "love God and love our neighbour" (Matthew 22:37&39) and to "go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19-20) - and that will not change this side of heaven.

However, the COVID pandemic has forced the Church to pause, step back, and re-evaluate our understanding of church ministry and activity. In a post-COVID reality, we must be more innovative while holding tightly to our church mission, but loosening our grip on our traditional church model.

From our Church vision, "Nourished to Flourish -Building Up and Reaching Out to Every Generation", the pastors have articulated five focus points to steer us forward:

Rebuilding Worship Reclaiming Life Groups Rediscovering Serving Reviewing our Ministry to ACS (International) Revitalising our Youths

Let me share some thoughts and hopes for HVMC, organised around the above five focus points.

Rev Joel Yong, our former Pastor-in-Charge, cautioned us repeatedly against a "consumeristic" attitude towards our faith, which is, "What's in it for ME? How do I benefit from it?" This mindset leads us to evaluate our Church, our faith and each other according to our personal preferences, values and whims.



REBUILDING WORSHIP begins with understanding what authentic, God-honouring worship is. The pandemic has taught us that true worship has little to do with singing, and everything to do with whether we respond to God with love, obedience and praise. Embracing this will nurture a mindset that is less self-centred and more Christ-centred.



In a world where falsehoods often hold equal weight with truth, it is imperative that our source of truth and wisdom must be from Scripture, not the internet, not from public opinion. **RECLAIMING LIFE GROUPS** will provide safe spaces for people to intentionally study God's Word, share life experiences to grow spiritually together, and to be encouraged through the ups and downs of life.



Being more Christ-centred and less self-centred will lead us naturally to **REDISCOVER SERVING** in HVMC. It is logical that as a church grows, the more activities and programmes it should offer. The danger is that church activities can easily burn people out.



The church is meant to equip us to live out our faith in the world, not within the church. Given our limited size and resources. it would be wise to have clearer focus in our ministries and one area that has been identified is **REVIEWING OUR MINISTRY TO ACS** (INTERNATIONAL). The students at the School represent more than 30 nationalities. God has placed HVMC in a unique position to impact the School for Christ and impact the world through the School. These different cultures are at our doorstep, and I am excited to see how God leads us to serve this community in the vears ahead.



Finally, we must commit to **REVITALISING OUR YOUTHS**. They must be discipled, empowered, equipped and given agency to disciple others of their generation. We look to God for wisdom for new formats and structures to minister to a generation that grew up in a world vastly different from the one many of us grew up in. The most visible casualty of the COVID pandemic is church attendance. Attendance figures may take a while to recover to pre-COVID levels, so the development of digital strategies and communication must continue for those people who cannot go to a service. In the same way that many consult online reviews before visiting a restaurant, our online presence will be, for many, a first peep through our door before a personal connection is made. HVMC must therefore enhance its online presence and ministry, as it offers the potential for massive reach.

The health of our church is not our physical state, measured by attendance, tithing, programmes,etc, but it is our spiritual state - our culture, our attitudes and our theology. Like physical health, spiritual health needs to be maintained through **Building Up** (eating right - a steady biblical diet through sermons, life group and individual worship) and **Reaching Out** (exercise - following Jesus' model of serving others and sharing the Gospel).

None of us knows what HVMC will look like in the next 10 years. The only thing certain is that our future is secure in God's hands, and I think He will surprise and delight us. We can be confident that God, who began a good work in us, will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.

Eugel Yeo Lay Leader

Looking ahead, our members share their hopes for the future of Holland Village Methodist Church...

here's what they wish for...

That we be known as a Church of fervent disciples of Christ, a people with a heart of Christ for others and a body of Christ that unites to serve Christ's higher purpose. DANIEL CHUA More members to serve in the ministries, especially that of Worship and Music! Let there be multiple bands! LOI KAH HOE

66 To continue to grow in God's love and joy. **HUI CHOON HO**

That the Church will be filled with a loving congregation, drawn together in unity and joy to fulfil His plans. EUNICE YEO

K HVMC worshippers be Christlike in all that we do and be ready for Christ's coming again. **MUN KWOK ON** That we continue to have more young worshippers, and for them to bring about more activity by our Church, in the community. And for them to grow into church leaders, bringing their families to worship Christ our Lord. JAWHARILAL BALACHANDRAN

That our quest to love God and love others, including the community, will grow stronger moving forward **GEORGE FILMERIDIS** **66** That it builds and equips a generation of youth and young adults who are on fire for God's kingdom. **KEVIN THAM**

I hope HVMC will continue to grow as a community of faith, hope and love that glorifies God in whatever it does. I also hope that it will be a house of prayer for all races and for all generations. **ANGELA TAN**

Our prayerful wishes for the Church's next 10 years:-

Hungry for God: For HIS Word, HIS will for the direction of the ChurchOpen Community Spirit: Embracing and outreach to the communities around the Church

Place of refuge, spiritual growth, and support in this volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world Extended family: young and old are valued members of our HVMC family Stamina: for HVMC and all to finish the Good Race! Glory be to God! SAMEER AND LISA GROVER I hope that it will never be said of HVMC that, in all our labour and striving we have forgotten and left our first love. Instead may HVMC continue to grow deeper in the knowledge of the fullness of His lavish love, and be obedient to God's command to love others in our Church community, and graciously learn to receive love too. DANIEL KOH

66 That we grow to be an all-inclusive Church, embracing people of diverse nationalities, races and socio-economic status. **YEOH CHEE KOON**

I pray we will be a light set upon a hill, a beacon of light, a signpost to all, of God's love and grace to the world. **REBECCA CHEN**

...and, what our youths hope for ...

66 My vision for the Church is to see it create a praying community of believers who support one another through life's challenges and grow spiritually together to try and become more Christlike. ELIOT PAN

> That HVMC will continue to grow as a church and have more youths attending. CAMERON FYFFE

Currently, our Youth Ministry is very small, and with the passing of time, the majority of the older youths will be moving to the main worship service or going overseas for their education. Although every year we do have 13-year-olds joining us from the Children Ministry, the numbers are shrinking. Which is why I wish our Church to grow, helping our Youth Ministry to expand as well. **NICHOLAS TANG** The Church to continue to grow spiritually. That HVMC can become a place where the community gets together and lifts each other up in the way the Lord intended. I am looking forward to see how the Church will evolve, whilst always reminding ourselves that our number one priority is God. JESSE ONG

For HVMC youths to have a deeper relationship with God, and with each other. That youths will be meeting often, enabling us to become part of a community while learning more about God and developing in Christ from adolescence to adulthood.

That HVMC can become a warm spiritual home for people of all ages and I also hope for a stronger bond between people within the Church. HANNAH SIN

A MESSAGE FROM





OUR CHILDREN

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NOURISHED TO FLOURISH Building Up & Reaching Out to Every Generation



"... Stand up and bless the LORD your God from everlasting to everlasting. Blessed be your glorious name, which is exalted above all blessing and praise."

- Nehemiah 9:5





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