WELCOME TO YARDENIT THE BAPTISMAL SITE ON THE JORDAN RIVER



Holy Land Pilgrimage How to be an Evangelist (& yourself) in Social Media Transformed by the Word Rail Corridor Nature Walk

> 6 TO 17 NOVEMBER 2022 Holy Land Pilgrimage

FaithCare Testimony Taxi Wash @ Faith

Christmas @ Faith

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aith organised a Holy Land Pilgrimage to Israel from 6 to 17 November. Our Pilgrims embarked on a journey to explore the Holy Land including learning about and discovering biblical sites and its significance. Along the way, they visited the ancient city of Caesarea, had baptism at Yardenit, rode on camels, went to an Olive factory, took a boat ride on the Sea of Galilee, and even spent some time soaking in the Dead Sea.

Our Pilgrims thoroughly enjoyed the experience of a Tree Planting session held at Keren Kayemeth LeIsrael- Jewish National Fund (KKL-JNF)

#### A Planter's Prayer based on Psalms 1:3 (ASV) says:

And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper.



## REFLECTION BY Andrew Magdalene Seow

This is our second trip to the Holy Land. At the Holocaust Museum, we witnessed the atrocities done to the Jews. The Guide told us that the Jews were transported to concentration camps. There they were shaved from head to toe and their hairs made into pillows for those that came in later. They were then sent to the gas chambers. Upon their death, their bodies were incinerated and fats from bodies and bone marrows were collected and made into soap for the later batch to use. Why do they need to suffer such insane and terrible death? Questions as to why God's people suffered in Egypt, exiled into foreign lands during the 700s BC, their babies killed by King Herod, etc. Satan does not want to see God's people perpetuate. But the fact is the State of Israel has been formally instituted in 1948 and today their superiority in military warfare, capabilities in technological and scientific fields are superior and many Nobel prize winners come from this country. Amazing Grace of God!

#### Exodus 32:13

...Abraham's descendants shall be like star in the sky.

#### Genesis 12:3

I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.





#### By Lina Wong

'Witness and Evangelism' Ministry organized a talk to equip church members in evangelism through social media on 12 November 2022. Our guest speaker, Isaac Ong who is the founder of Colours <u>Global came to share with us "How to be an evangelist</u>



(& be yourself!) in social media". From interactive 'live' sessions with your audience to posts about celebrating lives together , we



learnt about discipleship, authenticity and more from the seasoned social media expert on how to engage our audience in the online space.

Since COVID-19, social media has become a useful and popular tool for communication because of its convenient accessibility. More churches have also started digital evangelism. If we can appreciate social media as a gift from God, we can use it for God's glory.

#### Here are some pointers from Isaac on how to use social media for evangelism

#### 1. "Evangelism" and "being yourself"

Evangelism means just being yourself. The focus of evangelism is not on us, but it is a way to celebrate our relationship with God. When we evangelize, we rejoice with His glory and love.

#### 2. Great Commission and social media

Social media is not just about how we can share about God but how can we make disciples. Discipleship is not just producing converts, but a journey to walk and help the new converts grow in their relationship with God. It is also how we demonstrate Christlikeness through our lives from how we think, speak, do, and love.

#### 3. Our Work

Our work is to create a Jesus culture where people can see Jesus in us. It is not by own endeavor or effort but is the work the of Holy Spirit. We just need to obey and follow Him.

#### 4. Evangelism in social media

Social media can be a platform where Jesus can be glorified. Isaac shared the acronym of R.E.P. for social media. Before COVID-19, social media was viewed as R.E.P (Rambunctious, Evil, and Parasite). After COVID-19, churches learnt to use social media as a platform for ministry and mission works worldwide. The acronym changes to another R.E.P (Reach, Effective and Portable).

#### 5. Be Salt and Light as a church online

Isaac shared Matthew 5:13-16 and reminded us to be salt and light in public. We need to keep the open house; be generous with our lives. By opening to others, we will prompt people to open up with God. This will allow the gospel to penetrate other people's lives through His works in us. We can also be the community or church for people who live in isolation.

#### How we can start to evangelize

"See the need, Meet the need." Know who your audience on social media is and find out what they need. Use whatever resource to share and encourage them. Engage them on social media by asking questions, offering to pray for them and sharing thoughts on things we learned, things that made us smile, laugh or cry.

Champion others by celebrating someone, commenting, or liking their post.

Social Media is not just how do I share about God but what God called us...

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# Rail Corridor Nature Walk

On Friday 30 September, pastoral staff, Peh Oon Thian (POT) and three volunteers, led a group of 50 seniors to trek an 8-km stretch of the Rail Corridor (Central), off Bukit Timah Road. The morning walk started from King Albert Park MRT station with a stop at the historic Bukit Timah railway station. The 1903 building is now a rail museum and part of the Rail Corridor attraction. A stone's throw away is the 1871 all-black Bukit Timah truss bridge, which was everybody's favourite place for photos.



Walking the trail alongside fauna and foliage turned out to be a



delightful experience for many of us. There

were opportunities for small talk during the walk. We touched base with fellow Faithians, some of whom we met for the first time despite years worshipping together at Faith. One sprightly lady chortled, "You know, I excused myself from babysitting just to come for this morning's outing!" The trail runs alongside Upper Bukit Timah Road and is shielded from traffic noise by a row of shrubs. Only the cacophony of the crickets and wild birds filled the air. We treaded up another kilometre to arrive at a fork near the Rail Mall. The spot marked the end of our long walk.

When asked what he thought of the outing, one septuagenarian summed up:

<sup>•</sup>The nature walk wasn't that difficult. We fellowshipped among the group and learned to appreciate God's creation along the way and. Best of all, He blessed our time together with the fine weather!"



The Rail Corridor nature walk was one of the testbed activities to engage the seniors at Faith. The pastors of Faith saw a need to establish a platform for senior members in the church to come together and participate in healthy pursuits which foster fellowship and bonding. Saturday morning activities such as pickle-ball games, Bible study, singspiration and workshops were organised. Camping and short getaway retreats are in the pipeline. We pray that God will bless this initiative.

FaithCARE Ministry is a Christ Caring for People through People Ministry. Our CARE ambassadors are trained and equipped through 20 hours of training and monthly continuous trainings and peer supervision to provide one-to-one, emotional support and Christ-centered care to people experiencing difficulties and crisis in their lives and are hurting. All of us will experience times of transition and crisis in our lives at one point or another. Having someone to journey with us and support us can mean so much to help ease the pain, confusion, stress and loneliness experienced.

A Faith that Cares

FaithCARE

CONTRIBUTED BY CHRISTINE WONG

I first got drawn to the FaithCARE Ministry when I read about it in our church bulletin in 2016. Jesus' teaching in Matthew 25:35-40 (The sheep and the goats) sets me thinking and reflecting on whether I am living my life according to the will of God. As much as I hope to provide help to those in need, often I am lost with words to comfort them.

I signed up to attend the 10-week FaithCARE Ambassadors Training together with my husband in September 2016 to learn to care for people who are going through struggles and challenges. Upon completion of the training in December 2016, we volunteered to serve as FaithCARE Ambassadors. The FaithCARE training provided many learning opportunities to get equipped with the caring assignment. The useful knowledge, skills acquired, caregiving books, and resources have guided me in my caring journey. Compassion and Loving Care are what our care receivers need most during their time of struggle. Listening to them without the need to provide any solution made me realize what "a problem shared is a problem halved" really means.

In our caring journey, our little acts of kindness mean a lot to the care receivers, eg being there for them in their moment of pain, praying with them, and encouraging them with the wonderful truth of God. Very often, God opens my eyes to see how He is actively at work in my care receivers' lives even during their storms. When their lives are touched by God, I am touched and edified too. It is indeed a privilege to serve the Lord in this ministry. I have witnessed God's greatness, faithfulness, and amazing grace in the lives of people He has put in my path.

#### ABOUT CHRISTINE WONG

Christine and her husband have served as FaithCARE Ambassadors since Dec 2016. Christine is also the Group Leader of the Oikodome Small Group. She is thankful for this season of retirement because it gives her new learning opportunities, time, and space to grow in her walk with God.

Sent by God. Just for Me By Vivian (not her real name). in her 40s

### A CARE RECEIVER'S STORY

I am floundering. Sinking and feeling highly stressed over many things happening one after another. Blow after blow, loss after loss. Not only did I see my plans upended and my dreams shattered to pieces, but I was hit in health and comfort, to friendship and relationships. I felt guilt, regret, shame, betrayal, and despair all at once, which lingered and lasted for way too long. There was no solution in sight and seeing no light at the end of the tunnel was hard to bear. I had never struggled this long or this hard before in my life, and I felt very lonely and alone.

After a while, I came to realize that I needed spiritual support to get me through this and started looking for resources. When I found out about the FaithCARE Ministry, I reached out to them for help. I was matched to my CARE Ambassador whom I am very grateful. Over time, because she

did not judge me but showed compassion and care for me, I was able to open up to her and shared my struggles. Several other people whom I had shared with were not able to support me over an extended period. But my Care Ambassador, dedicated and true to her calling, faithfully and patiently came alongside me over the last 14 months.

During my roller-coaster days, she would regularly text me over WhatsApp to encourage me with God's truths and share wise words of wisdom from her personal life



experiences. At my most difficult times, she would call me to pray together with me over the phone, often at short notice. There were also a few meetups with her when she spent hours listening to me and encouraging me. Words cannot express my appreciation for all her time and effort to be there for me. I thank God for connecting me to her through FaithCARE Ministry, for I have learned much from her whom I truly respect as a godly woman of faith.

Through her, God reminds me I am never alone. It is such a blessing to have my CARE Ambassador journey with me in my dark valleys, reflecting God's care and love for me!

Some details in this story have been changed to maintain confidentiality

To learn more about FaithCARE Ministry and find out how you can serve as FaithCARE ambassadors, or to request the help of a FaithCARE ambassador to journey with you through a crisis or difficulty, visit faithmc.sg/faithcare or contact Mr Phoon Kum Yuen at phoon\_kum\_yuen@hotmail.com

FaithCARE vision: To provide Christ-centered care and spiritual support through a network of trained and committed FaithCARE ambassadors

## Free Taxi Wash in the spirit of Christmas

On 1 and 2 December 2022, Faith organised a Free Taxi Wash for taxi drivers in the spirit of Christmas and giving! Many of the Taxi Drivers came to get their taxis dry-washed and polished while enjoying refreshments. Our dedicated volunteers came with hearts to serve and the Taxi drivers felt welcomed to be in our midst! Other than refreshments, a pouch and our Christmas at Faith flyers were also given to them to invite them and their families to join our upcoming Christmas event.

Thank you to your leaders and your staff, as they were very kind to us. This was a good opportunity for us to meet, everyone was happy.



What we intend is to bless others. It's good to reach out to taxi drivers because the cars are their livelihood. That way, we are blessing them through the cleaning and refreshment team gets the opportunity to talk and gift them in the spirit of Christmas.

Taxi Wash Volunteer



We held Christmas at Faith 2022 on 16 and 17 December at our church premises.

Everyone soaked in the Christmas vibes with their families and friends over food, beverage, carnival and arcade games, craftwork, live band performances by Juwita Suwito, Methodist School of Music, QCMC & Faith Methodist Preschool. Kids also had fun at our children's programmes!





It was such a fun event. My friends and I got to play so many games with each other and ate so much! I love the church's heart behind this event - that they wanted everyone to experience the warmth and love of Christmas.



Cherlynn, 27



I had so much fun at the event, I even came back a second time inviting my friends. There were just so many things to do.

Hilary Lim, 14

Christmas

-an

I spent most of the time at the hall with a cup of Barista Coffee and it was very relaxing. I really appreciate that a space like this is provided as I chatted over coffee and bubble tea with friends during this festive time of Christmas.

Angie Lim, 59

love camedown





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