

THE PBC POST

Issue 3 | May - June 2022



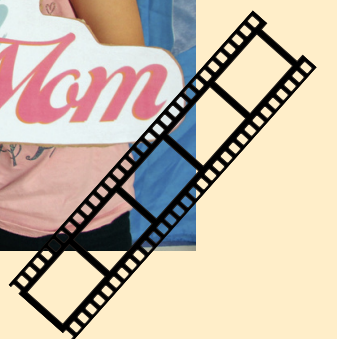
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SNAPSHOTS: MAKING MEMORIES WITH MUM

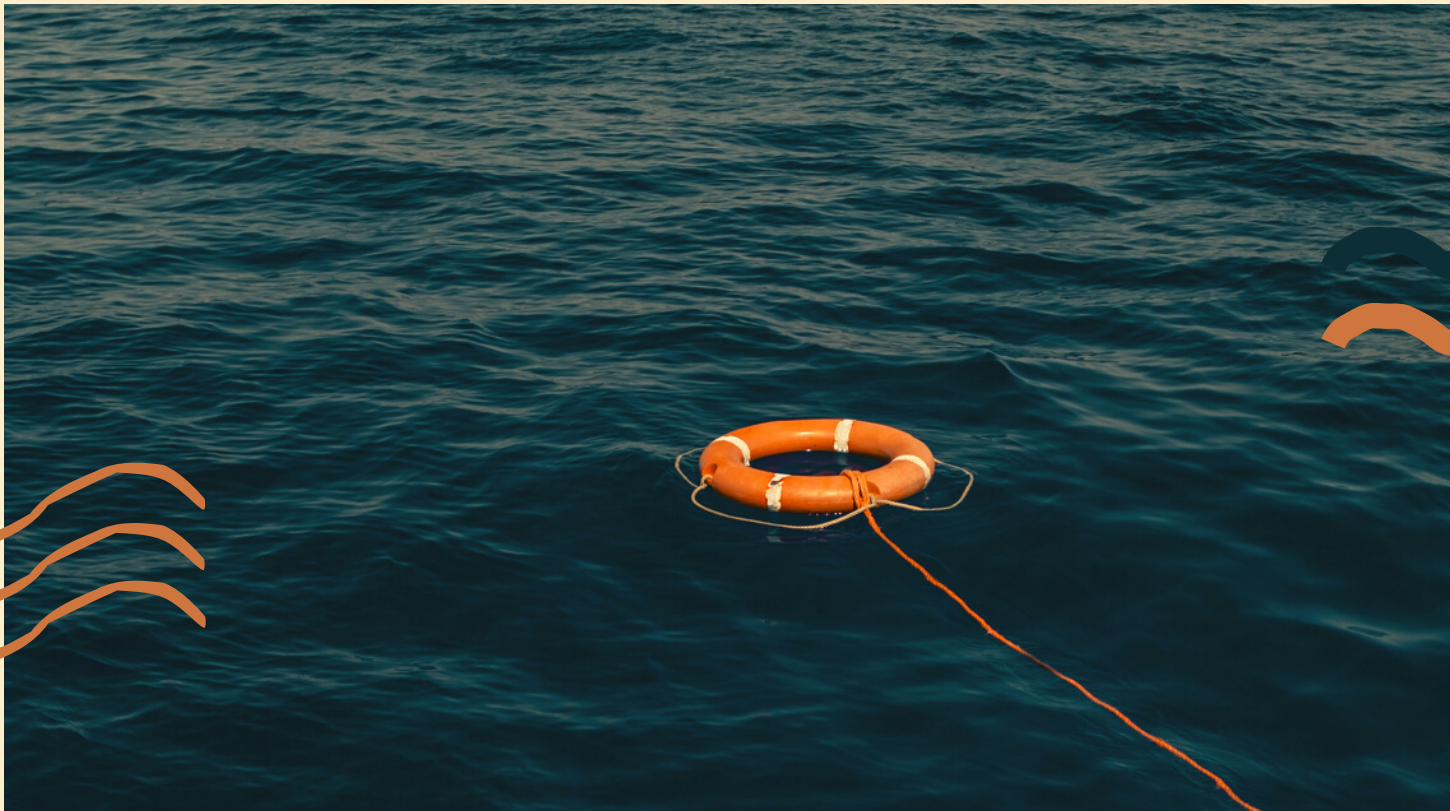
Taken at our Mother's Day photo booth



FLOATING BELIEVERS



By Rev Soong Kok Kee

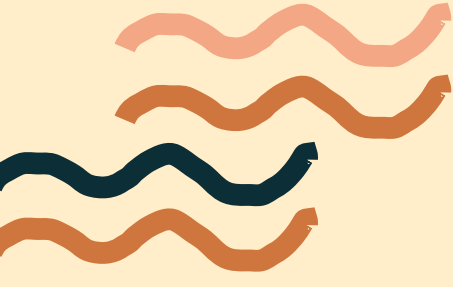


Churches today have what we call “floating believers” – **believers who hop from one church to another without any identity, accountability, or commitment.** They have not been taught that the Christian life involves more than just *believing*, it also includes *belonging*. Christians grow in Christ by connecting with other Christians. Romans 12: 10 says “Be devoted to one another in brotherly love.”

The Covid-19 pandemic has only worsened this phenomenon. With many churches going online or hybrid, believers can choose to “attend” any church in the world at any time of the day, not necessarily on Sunday. Not only can they choose the church but also the speakers, the worship team, and the type of songs they want to sing. They don’t have to go to any church physically or belong to any church, for that matter.

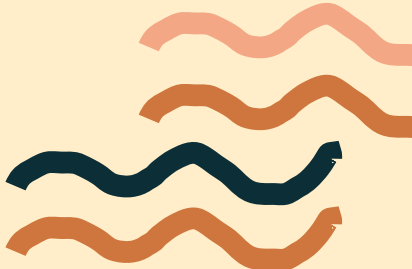
This phenomenon has already existed since the ‘80s when I went to the United States for my theological studies, albeit not on the scale we see today as there were no smartphones, Zoom, or today's modern technologies. What they had then were TV evangelists, where many Christians worshipped on Sundays by just switching on their TV. Some simply chose their favourite TV evangelist, and when they got tired of listening to him, they would choose another one.





C.S. Lewis once wrote an article on church membership, reminding us that the word membership is of Christian origin. He says that being a member of a church did not refer to some cold induction into an institution, but rather it meant **becoming a vital organ of a living body** (Rom. 12: 4-5; 1 Cor. 6:15; 1 Cor. 12: 12-27). He says we need to reclaim this image. Any organ that is detached from the body will not only miss what it was created to be; it will also shrivel and die quickly. The same is true for Christians that are uncommitted to any specific congregation.

Apart from the above, Rick Warren gives **five benefits** of becoming a member of a church.



1. It identifies a person as a genuine believer (Eph. 2:19; Rom. 12:5).

2. It gives them a place to discover and use their gifts in ministry (1 Cor. 12: 4-27).

3. It provides a spiritual family to support and encourage them in their walk with Christ (Gal. 6: 1-2; Heb. 10: 24-25).

4. It places them under the spiritual protection of godly leaders (Heb. 13:17; Acts 20: 28-29).

5. It gives them the accountability they need to grow (Eph. 5:21).

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord, if you are not already a member of a church, we earnestly urge you to find a church where you can become a member. Otherwise, you will be like a football player without a team; a soldier without a platoon; a tuba player without an orchestra; a sheep without a flock. But the most understandable (and biblical) picture is of a child without a family.

A Christian without a church family is an orphan.

WHY IS LIFE UNFAIR?

By Ps Mark Tan



After preaching from Ecclesiastes 8:10-17, I've been asked the question, **“Why is life unfair?”** and **“How does fearing God solve the unfairness?”**

For the first question, ultimately, life is unfair because of the presence of sin. 1 John 2:16 says “For everything in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – comes not from the Father but from the world.”

The answer to unfairness, whether it be morally, circumstantially, or economically, is answered by the existence of sin in the world and ultimately in us. Fearing the Lord, therefore, solves unfairness in two ways: it helps us to contrastingly recognise the sin in our lives and thus enables us to repent and flee from it. It also makes us realise our need for help, the love God has for us, and the Saviour which He provides.

“But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”

(Romans 5:8).



Therefore, the more we realise how unfair the world is, the more we ought to eagerly realise our sin and yearn for His salvation and redemption in Christ Jesus. Amen.

CHRISTIANITY EXPLORED

What is it and why should you be a part of it?

By Anna Lim



Christianity Explored is a relaxed and informal way of sharing the best news you can ever hear, and gives people space and time to think about the big questions of life.

Over seven sessions in Mark's Gospel, guests find out more about the life of the person at the heart of the Christian faith – Jesus Christ. The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk, and a discussion based on the talk.

The emphasis is on what we find in the Word of God, the Bible, and not some theologian's view of the gospel. This gives us a solid basis for everything we share, backed by Scripture. The material also spends time assuring participants of the reliability of God's Word.

The seven sessions are designed to reveal to the enquirer the following:

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| 🔍 Who is Jesus? ✕ | His Identity |
| 🔍 What was His aim? ✕ | His Mission |
| 🔍 How should we respond? ✕ | His Call |



We are totally aware of the consequences for those who reject Jesus – they face a Christless eternity. We want to encourage everyone to pray for your beloved friends and relatives to share God's love with them before it is too late – whatever tool you decide to use. The testimony of the CE Team is that **this is as good a tool as any!**

MEET THE INTERCESSORS

Why should we intercede for one another?

By Ps Wallace Ong



Front row: Katherine, Gook Yin, Saw Sim, Dr. Jenny, Tze Woei, Siew Ling, Rebecca. Back row: Richard Yeoh, Vee Kean, King Wai, Teng Joon, Marcus (Jin Kiat), Brendon Soong, Ps Wallace

Intercession is one of the most important aspects of our faith and prayer life. Intercessory prayer means coming before God on behalf of others to plead for God's compassion and mercy. Intercessions help our fellow believers and ourselves fight the battle – be it spiritual or physical – by pleading with God to destroy the strongholds and to thwart evil plans in the name of Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The prayer of an intercessor cancels the wicked plans of the enemy, brings to pass all the good plans that God has in store, and unleashes the mercy of God.

Being an intercessor is a privilege, and it is also a command for Christians to come out of their comfort zone to fight the spiritual war. We are part of God's divine army commissioned to stop the enemies' wicked plans from coming through.

Christians are called not just to pray for our own needs and that of our families, but to constantly pray for those who belong to the body of Christ and the lost souls in the world. Today, God is calling you to humble yourself and come to your knees to pray for others.

Will you respond to His calling?



WHAT'S UP NEXT?

Bible Classes by the PBC Biblical Education Committee

Time: 8pm, every Tuesday
Register here: <https://pbc.my/seminars>

MAY

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| 10 | The Result of Atonement | Tong |
| 17 | Who Christ is as our Saviour | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 24 | God's Sovereignty and Human Responsibility | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 31 | Presentation by Christianity Explored | Ps. Mark Tan |

JUNE

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|----|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 7 | A Personal Testimony | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 14 | Corporate Witness | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 21 | How to Disciple Others in Evangelism | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 28 | What If They Reject Me? | George Tee |

Sermon Topics for May & June 2022

MAY

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|----|---|-----------------|
| 1 | Heavenly Inheritance of the Chosen (1 Peter 1:1-12) | Ps. Soong |
| 8 | Mother's Day Message | Dr. Hew Fen Lee |
| 15 | Called To Be Holy (1 Peter 1:13-21) | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 22 | The Enduring Word (1 Peter 1:22-2:3) | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 29 | The Living Stone & His Chosen People (1 Peter 2:4-12) | Ps. Wallace Ong |

JUNE

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|----|---|-----------------|
| 5 | Submission to Authorities (1 Peter 2:13-25) | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 12 | Wife & Husband (1 Peter 3:1-7) | Ps. Mark Tan |
| 19 | Father's Day Message | Elder Bryan Lee |
| 26 | Sharing the Blessing (1 Peter 3:8-12) | Ps. Wallace Ong |

IN LOVING MEMORY

Our dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ who have returned to the Lord.



Clement Ng Sook Hoong
16 November 1975 - 1 March 2022



Betty Tang Sow Chan
28 September 1933 - 12 March 2022



Richard Mok Meng How
31 December 1971 - 5 April 2022



Cheong Chew Ngoh
9 January 1929 - 29 April 2022

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