

A Touch

of His Grace™

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MORE GRACE TO US ALL THE IDEA OF GRACE IS FOUNDATION TO THE CHRISTIAN FAITH

Grace Describes our Relationships

It describes the way that God relates to us, and thus the way we are to relate to each other. God created us to be in loving relationship with Him and each other. This is the only way we can enjoy life and thrive as unique persons and communities.

God is compassionate towards us, patient with us, offering us His Loving Promises and Provision. He also entrusted us with the incredible power of Choice – to respond to His Love and to love those around us.

Grace Reveals the Nature of God

To help us have a concrete picture of Himself, God sent Jesus to earth. Jesus is described as “full of Grace and Truth”. In the way that Jesus welcomes both young and old, rich, and poor, sick, and healthy, we see God's Grace towards us all. God does not discriminate or play favourites.

Grace Reveals the Nature of Humans

Life is never smooth sailing. But in order to recover from our pain and hurt, we need Grace – that allows us to forgive others and even forgive ourselves! Our true nature as being made in God's image is seen when we operate not by strife, but by Grace.

Our Grace Model of Care

Since Grace is so central, we have developed it as an acronym for our model of care. We can extend this as a way we want to live and work:

Graceful Living – to enjoy the gift of life through simple pleasures, hobbies, good relationships.

Respect – to honour each person's unique story and personality.

Autonomy – to encourage independence and freedom within limits of safety and the common good.

Choice – to enable the use of this greatest power we have, to choose.

Empowerment – to take each other's aspirations and preferences seriously.

To experience God's Grace, to receive it from others, and to offer it, may not come easily to us at all. But all it takes is an open heart to begin. After all, is there a better way to live other than by Grace?

Rev **Jenni Ho-Huan**

Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships
St Luke's ElderCare

DAILY MORNING RHYTHM OF PRAYER — REFLECTIONS (PART 2)

This continues with the personal reflections submitted by staff who participated in the daily devotionals from April 2020 through January 2021.

Note: From February 2021, the daily chapel along with the weekly prayer meeting had evolved into a weekly 30-minute devotional during lunch time in the middle of the work week to allow for staff to come together and spend time in fellowship with the Lord based on the format **Pause, Reflect, Anchor and Yield or PRAYER**.

"I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Chaplains for putting so much time and effort into preparing the daily devotionals. I benefited very much from the Daily Morning Rhythm of Prayer. It was both a devotional and a bible study at the same time. The Chaplains were able to help me get deeper into understanding the Word of God. If I were to go through the Bible passages on my own, I may miss out on some truths and personal applications. The Chaplains indeed helped me to go deeper in the Word of God by providing the historical background and elaborating on the details about the stories that took place. They put in a lot of care in finding out and analysing the

Word and interpreting it in the right context. I fully enjoyed the Daily Morning Rhythm of Prayer. May God bless our Chaplains for the teaching of the truth." - By **Ms Teo Lay Chin**, Assistant Manager, Human Resource

"It had been a privileged and blessing for me to be given the task to prepare the roster for the team and to play my part in leading my fellow colleagues in the Daily Morning Rhythm of Prayer over the past 8 months. So far, we had covered 4 books of the Bible, namely Gospel of John, Acts of the Apostles, Epistles to the Ephesians and Epistle to the Galatians. The Word of God became so real and powerful to me as I prepared the daily devotional. I believe, on the flip side, this COVID-19 has brought many of us closer to God through this platform. It is written, "Draw near to God and He will draw near to you" (James 4:8). "Social distancing" had given me an opportunity to reprioritize my focus and repent from the grievous spiritual distancing that I had with my Saviour. The Spirit of truth convicted me that it was high time that I should wholeheartedly recommit the remainder of my life to draw more and more closer to our holy God. To God be the glory!" - By Senior Chaplain **Mr Richard Woo**, Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships

PRAYER WALK — SLEC SENGGKANG-PUNGGOL ACTIVE AGEING HUBS AND NURSING HOME

We started undertaking prayer walks since the building of our first nursing home – St Luke's ElderCare Residence @ Ang Mo Kio - was in progress. Somehow those prayer walks always encouraged me to keep trusting God for His faithfulness and provision. The prayer walks were subsequently extended to our first Active Ageing Hub (AAH) at Bishan. As we walked and prayed over the grounds, I could not help but sense the powerful and invisible Hand of the Lord upon each of our prayer sessions.

Thus, it was with great excitement when we could include the AAHs and nursing home at Sengkang-Punggol into our prayer walks when we were told that our management had tendered for the Integrated Operator Services (IOP) there.

When I first arrived at the Anchorvale AAH site, I was pleasantly surprised to find that it was already 'in place'! The site had been properly built up with the basic fixtures of doors and windows in place and it looked as if it was ready to open for business as soon as we finished the interior work. I remember thanking God for preparing the place in advance and to such a level of detail and counted it a privilege to be involved in the community there. It was at this same time that I sighted a 'big bird'

flying majestically in the air and I remember asking God to let His banner fly in Sengkang-Punggol.

The prayer walk at the future site of the nursing home at Punggol Field was another unforgettable experience. I vividly remember the white temple near the proposed site and somehow it stirred us to start singing in unison, beckoning God's light to shine in that corner of Punggol. I personally became aware of the spiritual climate of the site with the temple so close by, but deep within each of us, we were confident that God is above all other gods.

I am thankful for the opportunity to prayer walk the land and when we were informed that SLEC had been awarded the tender, I rejoiced in the knowledge that God had a wonderful purpose and plan for the lives of the residents of Sengkang-Punggol.

The journey of prayers has just begun. We will continue to wait upon the Lord for the provision of His labourers for His vineyard. In the meantime, we thank God for allowing us the opportunity to be the conduits of the light of Jesus so that the land will be filled with Christ's grace and mercy. To God be the Glory!!

By Senior Chaplain **Ms Mah Seok Eng**, Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships

A PRAYER ANSWERING GOD

On one of my regular visits to SLEC Chong Pang Centre to meet with the elders and staff in Mar 21, I was asked to attend to an elder who was depressed and had been crying since the morning.

Mdm Kunyamboo Kalianee was an Indian elder who could speak some Hokkien and Mandarin but not English. She told me that she was saddened by her daughter-in-law who had ran away from home without any apparent reason. Her son and daughter-in-law had a 1-year-old boy. With her daughter-in-law gone, there was no one to take care of the little one. I asked if I could pray with her in my simple Hokkien and Mandarin and she agreed. After praying with her, she felt a little better that someone was there for her.

When I visited the centre the following week, the staff who initially referred me to Mdm Kalianee was visibly excited and informed me that my prayer for her had been answered. She told me that Mdm Kalianee's

daughter-in-law had returned home on the very same day we prayed together. Praise the Lord for His love and mercy. When I went to see Mdm Kalianee, I saw a smiling, energetic and positive person quite unlike the one I first met the previous week. Mdm Kalianee said that everything had returned to normal now that her daughter-in-law had returned to look after her son. The family was back together again and peaceful. She was grateful and thankful that I was able to pray for her.

Through this experience, I learned that I should not take anything for granted and to pray for each elder sincerely and truthfully at all times trusting that God will answer our prayers although at times it may seem difficult. I have come to look forward to visiting the centres and spending time with the elders with a heart of gratitude and expectancy.

By Senior Chaplain **Mr Jimmy Foong**,
Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships



SLEC LEADERSHIP PRAYER GATHERING 19 APRIL 2021

Following the retreat in November 2020, the board and management of SLEC supported the call for a combined prayer meeting to be organised on a regular basis for members of the leadership to come together to seek the Lord in prayer for the work of SLEC and to bear one another's burdens before Him.

The first SLEC Leadership Prayer Gathering was held on 19 April 2021 at Church of Singapore. Rev Jenni Ho-Huan, Head of Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships (PCCP) and the Chaplains led the gathering with participation by Prof Ho Yew Kee, Chairman, SLEC Board who gave a devotional and Ms Khor Siew Khim, Mr Steve Loh, and Mr Albert Low of the Missional Care Committee who each took turns to lead in collective prayer for God's protection for SLEC, for passionate SLEC staff, and for hearts and minds to be open to receiving the love of Christ.

Mr Foong Daw Ching, SLEC board members and Chairman, Missional Care Committee, brought the gathering to a close in benediction.

A total of 24 members of the SLEC Board, Missional Care Committee, management team and PCCP team attended the gathering.



ST LUKE'S ELDERCARE RESIDENCE @ ANG MO KIO – WORK PLAN RETREAT 27TH AND 28TH FEBRUARY 2021



St Luke's ElderCare Residence @ Ang Mo Kio (SLR) opened its doors on 4th May 2020, at the height of the COVID-19 outbreak in Singapore and during the country's Circuit Breaker period where much of the social and economic activities came to a standstill. A month earlier, the nursing home was called upon to extend care and support to 11 residents from the COVID-19 stricken Lee Ah Mooi Old Age Home (Thomson). They had been transferred temporarily to be quarantined thru April 2020.

On 27th and 28th February 2021, the SLR management team held a work plan retreat. We asked Ms Ng Lay Ling, Director, Residential-based Services, and Prof Edward Poon, Senior Director, Nursing, for their thoughts and reflections looking back over the past year that the SLR had been operational.

What were the challenges at the SLR and to what extent do you think the retreat had helped to address them?

Lay Ling - SLEC is like a big family. People would mingle freely after work and bond with each other. They feel belonged and helped each other at work. The SLR opened in the middle of COVID-19. We had to comply with social distancing and split team arrangements on our first day of work. As a healthcare institution, we had to observe the COVID-19 regulations more strictly than others. Even when small group outings were allowed, the SLR continued to maintain the split teams and discouraged dining together. No large group gatherings could be held e.g.

annual town hall meeting, our partners and volunteers could not engage our elders face-to-face in person. We were glad to be able to organize the work plan retreat for key staff in February this year, during the safest period of the pandemic and where there were minimal community cases. So, it was really our first get together as a family and we got to know each other better over the 2 days, not so much talking about work challenges but more about our hopes and dreams for the SLR.

Prof Edward - The retreat had helped to resonate that caring for the elders is important and how we can build on our GRACE Model of Care to provide a better place for the elders to live in.

Do you have something from the retreat that you might like to thank God for?

Lay Ling - There is so much to thank God for the retreat. From the planning to the programme, to the attendance and outcome. He watched over us, prompted our spirit to have the retreat, and He brought 95% of our key staff together within just a short 2-week notice. And He kept the COVID-19 situation under control. There were genuine sharing of dreams and hopes for the SLR.

Prof Edward - I believed that God was there guiding us and bringing us together throughout the retreat and leading us by His wisdom. I felt blessed that His grace over me had made me a better person and be better connected with Him.

What were some memorable moments of the retreat for you?

Lay Ling - The most memorable moments were the team bonding over the 2 meals we had outside of the hotel. We travelled as a group, ate as a group, and fellowshiped with one another. My team had Thai food for dinner, and ice cream for dessert. I really hope for more such moments with my colleagues.

Prof Edward - Getting to know my fellow colleagues better through the team bonding and fellowship was the highlight of the retreat for me.

What would you like to see happen in the SLR going forward and how do you think our fellow brothers and sisters in Christ from the churches can help?

Lay Ling - Please pray alongside with us and be a part of our Prayer Engine. We pray for the COVID-19 situation to go away soon, for God's continued protection over our elders, family members, visitors, volunteers, staff, vendors to be free from the virus attack, and for the SLR staff to be able to move about freely and to mingle with each other like one big family.

Prof Edward - Moving forward, I hope that more church partners will come forward and set up support groups, befriender groups, care groups to engage the elders and staff.

Prof Edward - I like this picture from A/Prof Kenny's poem. It was very refreshing and had been playing in my mind especially the word "Home". A home is only as solid as it's foundation. If the foundation is weak, it will crack, and the house will collapse. The same is true with a home in the spiritual sense. If it is to be sturdy, strong, and united then it must be built on the firm foundation of truth. As the scripture says in Matthew 7:24, "Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock." We need to work together to build up this Home spiritually.

WEDNESDAY CHAPEL SERVICE AT SLEC TELOK BLANGAH CENTRE

When in-person partnership activities had to discontinue due to the COVID-19 outbreak in 2020, I invited Senior Chaplain Richard Woo to stand-in for the Wednesday Chapel Service that our long-time church partner Telok Ayer Chinese Methodist Church had been running for many years but had to be put on hold in the interim.

Chaplain Richard readily welcomed the opportunity to personally reach out to the elders and staff of the centre through the weekly devotional and started doing so from September 2020.

Richard would incorporate games and his own personal testimonies into the weekly sessions and relating them to the affairs of the day or festive celebration coming up. His non-provocative sharing was welcomed by both pre-believing and believing elders alike as they participated actively in his programme. Richard would also spend time in prayer with those who were unwell. On the

first Wednesday of each month, he would celebrate birthdays for the elders whose birthdays fell on the same month and would pray a prayer of blessing over them. Many elders had come to look forward to seeing him and would ask when he would be visiting the centre again.

Following each chapel service, Richard would also stay back and spend some time to minister to the centre staff and pray with them. The staff were very grateful especially those who had come from overseas to work but could not return home due to the pandemic. Many had parents and family members who were affected by the virus at home,

and they could not do anything about it.

Richard had brought much needed hope and joy to the elders and staff with his presence since the pandemic started.

By **Mr Gabriel Chua**,
Centre Manager,
SLEC Telok Blangah Centre

Editor Note: Senior Chaplain Richard Woo had since conducted similar weekly chapel services at the SLEC centres in the East cluster under his coverage - SLEC Changkat Centre, SLEC Marine Parade Centre, SLEC Rivervale Centre, SLEC Sumang Centre, and SLEC Tampines Centre.



CHURCH PARTNER PROFILE

GOSPEL LIGHT CHRISTIAN CHURCH

Situated within 10 minutes' drive of SLEC Rivervale Centre (RVC) and SLEC Sumang Centre (SMC), Gospel Light Christian Church (GLCC) was SLECs first faith partner in the Punggol-Sengkang neighbourhood when both centres opened in 2018. The church had moved to its current home in Punggol Field Walk in December 2016, after more than 10 years of being a "nomadic church" and recognising God's call to shine the Gospel in the Northwest region of Singapore.

GLCC fortnightly engagement activities with the elders at RVC and SMC include fortnightly chapel service, befriending the elders over lunch after the chapel service, lunchtime Bible study, festive celebrations, and invitations to on-site church events, ad hoc giftings for elders e.g. masks and other items, Table Tennis Ministry, and Mid-Autumn Celebration cum Fundraising.

In 2020, when partnerships activities were restricted due to the COVID-19 outbreak and safe distancing measures, the church continued to engage the elders at both centres each month via Zoom.



Fortnightly Engagement



GLCC Mid-Autumn Celebration 2019



Table Tennis Ministry. Table Tennis table donated by GLCC



Members of the GLCC-RVC Team



Mr Fishy-Clown & Magic Show



Members of the GLCC-SMC Team



PRAYER

We covet your prayer support for our service to the elders and for our staff and stakeholders as we work together to transform the way care is delivered in the community care setting and to make a difference in the lives of the elders.



PARTNERSHIPS & COLLABORATION

If you would like to explore ministry collaboration with St Luke's ElderCare, we very much welcome the opportunity to discuss more with you. Please contact Howard Wong, Manager, Pastoral Care and Church Partnerships at:

Telephone: 6390 9368

DID: 6390 9843

Email: howardwong@slec.org.sg



FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Every elder is different, and each comes to us with unique health and care needs whether it is for recovery, rehabilitation, nursing, or overall health maintenance. The solution must be tailored for effective and sustainable impact. Your financial contribution will enable us to better customise our programmes and services to each individual elder. Bless our elders today via this URL bit.ly/TOHG-Jun-2020 or QR code



VOLUNTEERISM

Please let us know if you can help us as a volunteer whether individually or as a group through your gift of time, skills, and talent however big or small. We also welcome any ideas that you might have to better engage and touch the lives of the elders in our care. Volunteer with us via www.slec.org.sg/ways-to-give/volunteer, alternatively, kindly scan this QR code:



To find out more about our programmes, services and locations, you may visit us via www.slec.org.sg, alternatively, you may scan this QR Code:

