

Touch of His Grace

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“FOR NOW, WE SEE IN A MIRROR DIMLY, BUT THEN FACE TO FACE. NOW I KNOW IN PART; THEN I SHALL KNOW FULLY, EVEN AS I HAVE BEEN FULLY KNOWN. SO NOW FAITH, HOPE, AND LOVE ABIDE, THESE THREE; BUT THE GREATEST OF THESE IS LOVE.”

[1 COR 13:12-13 ESV]



A Journey of Faith

AN SLEC STORY

Eugene dropped out of school after Secondary Two. While schooling, he worked part-time at a provision store and performed with a Lion Dance Group. The income he was getting was too good that he decided to stop school, which was also when he was exposed to bad company and went wayward.

He later joined the Army as a regular and met his future wife, Valora. Through the patient persuasion of Valora (a third-generation Christian), Eugene went to church and accepted the Lord in 2011. They married shortly after and relocated to China where Valora pursued further studies. Eugene was there to support Valora, but living and working in China was challenging and stressful. After 7 years, they returned to Singapore to start everything afresh.

Starting over meant they now have no job and no proper home of their own. They were also unable to have a baby since 2011. However, one thing that remained was their steadfast love and faith in the Lord. They continued to pray and trust God to guide and provide for them.

In Feb 2019, Eugene got a job as a Care Staff in SLEC. Subsequently, Valora also got a job in a hospital and a sponsorship where she will be trained to be a Physiotherapist. After Eugene was transferred to SLEC @ Ang Mo Kio Centre, he felt God's prompting to take up Therapy Aide (TA) course. With the support of his supervisor and the advice of colleagues, he embarked on the course.

Initially, he struggled and wanted to give up as he had not studied since he left school. Senior Chaplain Seok Eng then came alongside to encourage and pray with him. Slowly the difficulties lightened, and he sensed that God had given him supernatural wisdom to understand what was taught. By the grace of God, he passed the TA exams and began his role as TA in St Luke's ElderCare Residence @Ang Mo Kio in December 2021.

In 2021, the couple also successfully balloted for a BTO flat, and they now have a place to call home. Valora finally conceived after 10 years of marriage and the couple is expecting their baby in August 2022. When we have faith in Him, His grace abounds. With God all things are possible, and we hope you will be inspired by Eugene's story in your own journey of faith.



Therapy session with a resident of SLR @AMK



Resident performing activities of daily living with of prop built by Eugene



Join us as a volunteer!
www.slec.org.sg/ways-to-give/volunteer

A Journey of Love

AN SLEC CHURCH VOLUNTEER STORY

Mdm Eileen Koh-Ling worships at Church of Singapore and visits St Luke's ElderCare @Tampines Centre. She is grateful to God for saving her from Covid-19, and she wishes to share her story so that He can be glorified.

I would like to thank God for His mercy and infinite grace in rescuing me from the valley of death. For it is He who enabled me to enter 2022. I give all praise and glory to His name! In October 2021, I had a high fever for three days and was quarantined in the hospital as mandated by MOH. At the hospital, my respiratory oxygen dropped below 90, causing me to cough non-stop for two to three days. With pain like a needle pricking my chest, I prayed to God to alleviate the pain. By His mercy, my cough gradually subsided and disappeared after three days, but my oxygen index remained extremely low. This pessimistic condition lasted for 10 days before the index rose back to 95-96. After two more days of recovery, I was able to breathe again without any need for an oxygen tube. Praise the Lord for His grace and kindness towards me!

During hospitalization, I was unaware that my situation was grave. I did not know that for seniors like me who were above 65 years and unvaccinated, the Covid Delta virus infection would pose a higher risk to my life. But God sent an angel in the form of a doctor who is also a believer to examine my condition with love. When he knew I am a Christian, he even laid his hand to pray for me and comforted me by saying that he would provide his best care for me.

Finally, after 18 days of hospital stay, I was able to go home. The doctor advised that complete recovery may require up to three months. My latest report showed a scarred right lung, but I will continue to pray for complete healing. I believe that my God is almighty and powerful, and nothing is impossible for Him.

Through this crisis, I experienced God's faithfulness and His promise to never leave me alone. I was not afraid of being harmed because He was with me. His rod and staff comforted me. He gives me hope. He is my strength. He is my God who hears my prayer. All glory goes to Him!



Emerly at SLEC @Clementi Centre

A Journey of Hope

AN SLEC CAREGIVER STORY

Ms Emerly Santa Maria has been working as a Foreign Domestic Worker in Singapore since 2006 and started to work for Mr and Mrs Tan at the beginning of 2022. Her daily tasks include taking care of Mr Tan, fetching him to SLEC @Cementi Centre for day care, and helping Mrs Tan with the housework. It was not easy for Emerly to work alone in Singapore. She misses her family, especially her three children. Since Covid started, she has yet to return to Leyte, Philippines, to be with her family.

Earlier this year, her younger sister was struggling with her marriage. Due to pride and personality issues, her sister and her brother-in-law started fighting. What started as quarrels soon led to them hitting each other. On several occasions, they even threatened to shoot each other. Her sister was also suffering from depression. Having problems with depression and her marriage, she was unable to continue to work as a police officer. As a result, she ran away from her home and her husband. Emerly felt helpless that she could not be with her sister during the difficult period. All she could do was comfort her through video calls and praying for her.

One day Chaplain Alec Lim asked Emerly if she would like to be prayed for. Emerly welcomed the opportunity to share with him her sister's family situation. During the prayer, Emerly experienced a sense of peace. She later called home to catch up with her sister. To her amazement, she found that her sister had reconciled with her husband, and she had moved back home. The violence and the quarrels had stopped, and her sister sounded happy. Emerly is grateful to God for answering her prayer. The episode taught her to trust in God and to have faith when she commits her cries to God in prayer. Even though she was miles away from her loved ones, God was still able to bring about healing and reconciliation for her family.

Mdm Eileen at SLEC @Tampines Centre



Bethesda Hall Ang Mo Kio has supported the work of St Luke's ElderCare from time to time in earlier years. In 2019 the church started partnering with St Luke's ElderCare @Kebun Baru Centre to engage the elders regularly. The engagement, in one form or another, continued even throughout the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021.

The church has also blessed the elders with Cori Supermasks during COVID and gift packs containing biscuits, toothbrushes, toothpaste, and desktop calendars for Christmas in 2020 and fruit baskets for Christmas in 2021.



Elder Wong Tuck Keong presenting an elder with a fruit basket during Christmas celebration in 2021.



Christmas Goodie Bags, 2020



Musicians playing well-known traditional Chinese tunes...



...and Christmas Carols for the elders during Christmas Celebration in 2021

Singalong in Cantonese to a Chinese folk song, February 2022



Guzheng performance by a Sunday School scholar, June 2022

Our Church Partner

Members of the outreach team currently visit the centre on the third Friday of each month. The engagement activities include exercises, games, singalong sessions, sharing of Bible stories, and special performances.

In addition to the partnership at the centre, the church has also contributed towards SLEC's annual **Chinese New Year Hongbao Donation Drive** and **Breakthrough Fundraiser** for its mission and ministry outreach to stakeholders. The church has also made regular unsolicited donations towards SLEC's overall work. We give thanks and praise to God for the fellowship of Bethesda Hall Ang Mo Kio and its partnership of care for the elders in the Kebun Baru neighbourhood.



Morning exercise, April 2022



Song item presentation by K2 children of Bethesda (Ang Mo Kio) Kindergarten, 15 July 2022



Food ration items donated by the Bethesda (Ang Mo Kio) Kindergarten, a SPARK Certified Christian Preschool registered with MOE, 13 July 2022



With grateful thanks from the team at SLEC @Kebun Baru Centre



Support our work through a donation. www.slec.org.sg/giving

Partner with us! To find out more about partnering with us in caring for our elders in the community, kindly email pccp@slec.org.sg.