

Touch of His Grace

MCI (P) 01/07/2023

*“All this is from God
who reconciled us to himself
through Christ and gave us
the ministry of reconciliation.”*

(2 Corinthians 5:18, NIV)



Madam Ngeow Wee Ling

Madam Ngeow is a 78-year-old widow who stays by herself. She has high cholesterol, hypertension, and elevated sugar level and is on daily medication for her condition. Her children felt that she would benefit from attending a senior care centre and referred her to St Luke's ElderCare Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic Centre in March 2023.

Madam Ngeow has come to appreciate the care provided by the centre staff. She finds them genuine and authentic.



She is glad that she could meet and interact with lots of people and have good conversations with them. She is especially happy that the centre could cater to her vegetarian diet of many years.

The various exercises conducted at the centre are what Madam Ngeow enjoys because they help her to stay healthy. She is thankful that she could continue to walk well. She also likes the programmes at the centre as she finds them well-organised, has variety, and engaging.

Chaplain John Wong noticed that Madam Ngeow always pay attention during the devotionals shared by John or our church partners. On 27 October 2023, while chatting with the Centre Manager, Kelvin Leong, Madam Ngeow used the Chinese phrase 感恩 which means thankful for God's grace. John was intrigued and enquired why she felt that way. Madam Ngeow replied that she was grateful for the messages which reminded her that God had indeed preserved her health despite having to raise her children all by herself. Her husband always drinks and hardly supported her with matters at home, but God had provided her with people who helped her and blessed her along the way.

Upon bearing witness to her sincere and heartfelt thanks, John and Kelvin took the opportunity to lead her to give thanks to God and to accept Christ as her personal Lord and Saviour. We joined our hearts with all of heaven for the salvation of Madam Ngeow (Luke 15:7).



Madam Odette Tan

Senior Chaplain Jimmy Foong, together with befrienders Elsa Yu and Evelyn Tan from Trinity Christian Centre have been dutifully visiting Madam Odette Tan, a fellow church member, at her home for the past year.

Madam Tan lives alone with a helper and uses a wheelchair. She was referred to St Luke's ElderCare Bishan Active Ageing Hub for befriending. Jimmy and the church befrienders brought joy, music, and encouragement during their visits, providing Madam Tan with the companionship that she needed.

Isolated from regular visits by friends, Madam Tan receives mainly visits from healthcare workers and volunteers delivering bottled milk and other items to her home. Over the course of their friendship, Jimmy and the befrienders managed to connect her with a church nearer her home in Bishan which enabled her to attend service every Sunday.

During one of their visits, Madam Tan expressed her deep desire to reconcile with her daughter and family which had been strained due to a past misunderstanding. Jimmy encouraged her to forgive and prayed for her daughter. Madam Tan took his advice to heart and prayed diligently every day. In the meantime, SLEC staff from the community engagement team reached out to Madam Tan's daughter about visiting her mum.

One day while Madam Tan was asleep, her daughter visited her. Not wanting to disturb her, Madam Tan's daughter chose to let her continue sleeping. However, the helper captured a photo of the daughter by the mother's side. When Madam Tan woke up and saw the photo, she broke into tears.

This heartwarming turn of event testified to the power of prayer and that God will make all things beautiful in His time. The befrienders also found renewed strength and encouragement in their outreach to those in need.



From L to R: Madam Odette Tan's helper, Naisah, Ms Elsa Yu, Ms Evelyn Tan, and Madam Odette Tan





Elder Yang Tai Teck

85-year-old Elder Yang Tai Teck has been a resident of Household 8B at St Luke's ElderCare Residence@Ang Mo Kio since September 2021.

Through the Gift-A-Wish project by our church partner, New Creation Church (NCC), Elder Yang's wish of having a reunion meal with his family came true on 2 December 2023.

In October 23, just after being nominated for the project, Elder Yang's physical condition deteriorated. Despite his condition, he still looked forward to the day of the reunion, thanks to the faithful members of the NCC team for putting in weeks of planning and preparations to bring the special day to fruition.

The NCC team dressed up the common area of Household 8A and 8B. They turned the space into a memorable dining venue with elaborate table dressing, fine china, and elegantly laid out cutleries for Elder Yang and his sisters, Tai Fung, and Tai Choo to enjoy the food.

As Elder Yang was on a soft diet, a special therapeutic meal comprising Teriyaki Salmon Purée, Ang Ku Kueh, and Tiramisu was prepared for him while his sisters had dim sum, soup, and desserts ordered from a restaurant nearby. Two NCC church members provided soft background music to add to the ambience of the occasion.

Editor's Note: When we visited Elder Yang in the new year, he could still recall the reunion with his siblings fondly.



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Church Partner Spotlight City Harvest Church

City Harvest Church (CHC) has been collaborating with various community partners since the early 2000s. They first partnered with St Luke's ElderCare (SLEC) Bukit Timah Centre in 2005 where the team leader, Pastor Maria Tok who oversees the Dialect Service and team members conducted weekly chapel service for the elders of the centre.

The partnership with SLEC paused in 2011 and resumed in 2021, at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic. Despite the government's safe distancing measures and restrictions on volunteering activities at the time, the team continued to reach out to the elders of three SLEC centres through worship and praise songs and sharing of God's Word virtually via Zoom.

The church presently partners with SLEC Bukit Timah Centre and Jurong East Centre once a month. Pastor Maria and her team of 10 members would organise games, exercises, sing-alongs to secular oldies, lead worship and praise and share God's Word to bless both the elders and staff of the centres in person.

Pastor Maria recalled how an elder enjoyed dancing to the old songs that the team prepared that it brought back fond memories



and tears for him. Another elder thanked her and the team for bringing 'church' to her at the centre since she could not do so due to her persistent illness.

We give thanks and praise to God for the enduring partnership of care with CHC.



Pastor Maria Tok (fifth from left), and team from City Harvest Church together with SLEC staff at SLEC Jurong East Centre for Christmas celebration, December 2023.

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