

Touch of His Grace

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Faith in Action

*“By their fruit
you will recognise them.”*

Matthew 7:16a



Paya Lebar Methodist Church at SLEC Senior Care Centre @Hougang

Sharing Faith Stories through Puppetry: BBPC Puppet Ministry



By Chaplain Eugene Quek

Tucked away in the heartlands of Bukit Batok West is Bukit Batok Presbyterian Church (BBPC) that shares its premises with their sister church, Providence Presbyterian Church (PPC). Both BBPC and PPC have been active and dedicated volunteers at our SLEC Senior Care Centre @Bukit Batok (BBC) since it began its operations in April 2019.

Today, we will spotlight BBPC's puppet ministry that has been ministering annually at BBC for the past two years. While the puppet ministry was almost dissolved during the height of the covid pandemic, today, it boasts a steady stable of fifteen volunteers who cut their teeth in ministering to kindergartens, student care centres and now, elder care centers. This year also marked the first time the puppet team collaborated with the Boys' and Girls' Brigade troops that are attached to BBPC, to run an intergenerational programme that blessed the elders and staff of BBC. While the adults opened the session with a vibrant puppet show, the children closed the session by making hand puppets with the seniors.

You would be hard pressed to find someone more passionate about their ministry than Susan Low, the Head of the puppet ministry who was effusive about the exciting projects that the team are involved in. Like many others in her team, Susan took leave for the BBC puppet show, but unlike the rest of the team, she had to make a long trek to the west from her home in Pasir Ris.

For Susan, the puppet ministry has become, for the past ten years, a natural extension of her faith and an excellent way for her to involve her children in ministry. Today, her children who are in their mid-teens provide the voice-over recordings that

help bring the puppets to life. So convinced is the family about the effectiveness and value of the puppet ministry that they have committed to travelling to the Philippines in December for a mission trip, where the puppets will be heavily featured in a children's camp they will help to run.

Susan recalled fondly that she was first recruited into the puppet ministry by a fellow church member and was immediately hooked. While the initial training was challenging since it involved, among other things, building up muscle endurance and finessing the synchronization of voice and hand actions, the response of audience members – especially when they respond to the message – is priceless. Susan was quick to distance the puppet show from mere entertainment because the team's focus was on the show's evangelistic and discipling messages.

On this particular afternoon, fresh off their latest show, Susan shared her heart for developing more collaborative programmes she had first mooted to her church's leadership. I told her we looked forward to more of such projects, because they helped close the generational gap between children and elders and undoubtedly pleased God.

To Susan and the committed puppet ministry team: Thank you for your ministry. Praise the Lord!

Kah Yeun (standing, first from left), Susan (middle), Han and the puppet ministry members, Lanny, Husen, Amy and Kin Lan at BBC explaining the hand puppet the seniors would be crafting with the children.



From left, Susan, Lanny, Amy, Kah Yeun and Kin Lan from the Puppet Team, and volunteers from BBPC Palm Fellowship.



An Extraordinary Devotion: Mr Goh Chu Eng



By Chaplain John Wong

At 81 years old, Mr Goh Chu Eng continues to inspire everyone around him with his unwavering faith and thirst for God’s Word. A regular at the SLEC Senior Care Centre @Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic since October 2023, Mr Goh has built a quiet yet palpable presence among the staff and fellow attendees. His story took a remarkable turn during a recent devotional session led by Preacher Yao Shen En from Ang Mo Kio Chinese Methodist Church.

Preacher Yao, known for his warm messages, visits the centre monthly to bring encouragement and spiritual nourishment to its attendees. During one such session, Preacher Yao quoted from Proverbs 4:23 and shared about guarding one’s heart above all else, for it is the source of life. As Preacher Yao shared his message, Mr Goh began meticulously jotting down notes, capturing every key point with careful handwriting.

When he ran out of paper to write, Mr Goh did not hesitate—he continued writing onto his hands, determined not to miss a single word. It was not just the act of writing that was remarkable; it was the urgency and reverence with which he preserved the message. His actions reflected a heart eager to absorb the truths he was hearing.

Mr Goh’s dedication was not an isolated act. His life is a testament to his enduring faith and commitment to God. Despite the challenges of age and living arrangements—he stays with his eldest daughter while his wife lives with their younger daughter—the couple remains deeply connected through their shared faith. Each weekend, they attend church service together.

Preacher Yao’s message that day was simple yet profound: a reminder of God’s abiding presence in every season of one’s life. Mr Goh’s notetaking symbolised more than a desire to learn—it was an act of worship, a declaration that God’s word is worth holding onto.

The staff and fellow attendees at the centre were moved by Mr Goh’s actions. “He’s always been attentive during the devotionals,” one staff member shared, “but this time, his zeal inspired everyone. It reminded us of how we should treasure God’s word in our own lives. We could not help but had to take photos to capture the occasion.”

Mr Goh’s story is a call to all believers to approach God’s word with a childlike eagerness, to seek His truth in both simple and extraordinary ways. In the face of life’s separations and challenges, may his story encourage us to deepen our walk with God, to seek His presence, and to treasure His word in our lives.

Preacher Yao (left) holding up the notes that Mr Goh diligently jotted down on paper and on his hand.



The team from Ang Mo Kio Chinese Methodist Church during one of their monthly engagements at SLEC Senior Care Centre @Ang Mo Kio Polyclinic.

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



A Journey of Grace: Mdm Tay Kwee Huay



Mdm Tay (in wheelchair) surrounded by family members and friends, Pastor Kwok Yung (kneeling, first from left) and Senior Chaplain Petrina Tan (standing, third from left).

By Senior Chaplain Petrina Tan

Mdm Tay Kwee Huay, 92, is a cherished resident of St Luke's ElderCare Residence @Ang Mo Kio. She has called the nursing home her home since it first opened in 2020. Vascular dementia has left her unable to speak or move independently.

A Life of Gratitude

Mdm Tay's warm personality and gentle demeanour have endeared her to the nursing home staff. Her interactions, though non-verbal, convey a deep sense of appreciation. She readily accepts prayers and care with a sincerity that touches everyone around her.

A Divine Encounter

In March 2023, during one of my routine visits to residents, I met Mdm Tay and her family in the common area. Her family, who are actively involved in her care and well-being, invited me to pray with them for her health and well-being. That prayer session turned out to be a pivotal moment. It was during this time that Mdm Tay, with her family by her side, embraced Jesus Christ as her personal Lord and Savior. This unexpected yet beautiful moment left a profound impact on everyone present.

Baptism: A Celebration of Faith

On June 1, 2024, Mdm Tay took another step forward in her faith journey. With the nursing home as the solemn setting, she was baptized by Pastor Kwok Yung of Hope Church Singapore. Surrounded by her family, friends, and staff of



the nursing home, the ceremony was filled with joy and reverence. Despite her physical limitations, Mdm Tay was radiant throughout.

Reflections on God's Grace

Mdm Tay's journey serves as a heartfelt reminder that it is never too late for one to come to experience God. Her story resonates deeply, illustrating how faith can bring light and hope even in the autumn of one's life. We feel deeply honoured to have played a small part in this chapter of her life, walking alongside her and her family as she embraced her newfound faith.

We thank God for the privilege of witnessing His work in Mdm Tay's life.

Stories from around St Luke's ElderCare



SLEC Caregiver Story: Shirley See

"When I feel drained, I remind myself that this is a ministry to God": Mum who cares for dad with dementia and son with special needs.

Learn more about Shirley's story at Salt & Light.



SLEC Care Staff Story: Darren Lim

How a young introvert discovered his passion to serve the elderly.

Find out more about Darren's story in Thir.st.



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