

# Mustard Seed

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21



BANGSAR  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

The  
Father's  
House

**BLC 21ST  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION**

BANGSAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

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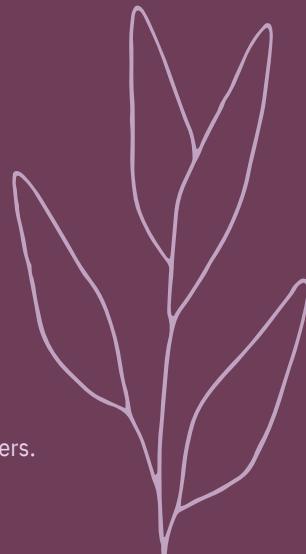
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Bangsar Lutheran Church

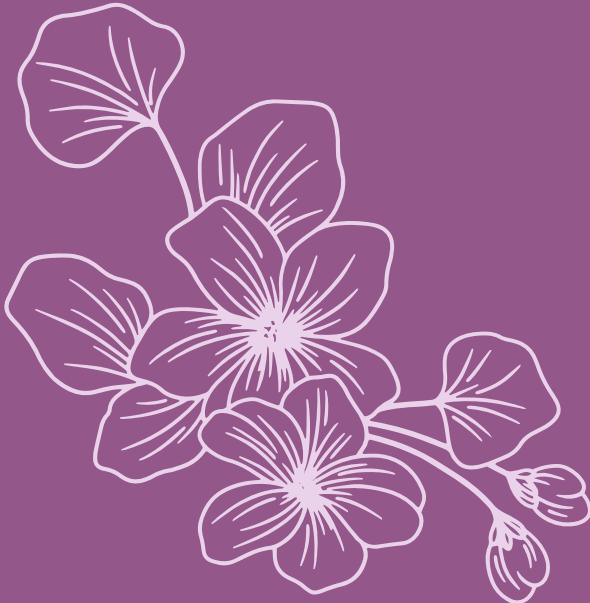
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NOTE: This publication is solely intended for internal circulation for Bangsar Lutheran Church members.



I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit... Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me.

John 15:1-2, 4





LCM Bishop Rev. Thomas Low, also  
presiding BLC Church Pastor

# Pastoral Reflections

by Bishop Thomas Low

During unprecedented times, we are reminded of our calling to live and work together, and offer hope.

We have been living in the times of this first global pandemic for around 22 months now. Many have asked the 'why'. Why does God allow this pandemic? Is this pandemic a sign of the End Times? It is the judgement of God for the way we have abused nature? Although these questions may be legitimate and have their place for discussion, my question would be of a more personal nature.

My question is simply: "How have you been keeping these last 22 months? Have we changed for the better through it? Or are we stuck in one place?" Or, in the words of the hymn: "Is it well with my soul?"

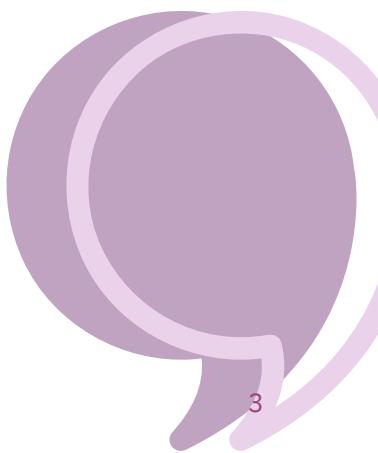
The pandemic challenges us with living with limitations; it stripped our lives of all the unnecessary distractions in life that we often think as necessary. Many of these distractions have often drawn us away from realising what's important in life – life itself.

“Is it well with my soul?” Now that worship is no more physical, have I drifted further away since there is no need for personal engagement? Or it has sharpened my focus on worship and led me to a much greater appreciation of the intentional act of worship? Now that we can’t meet for fellowship over *teh tarik*, do I look forward to meeting up via Zoom? Limited but better than isolation. I’ve always wanted to have a deeper study of the Word but for various reasons I can’t make it for bible study or cell groups. Now it’s online. I’m at home. No need to commute, no worries about traffic or rain. Does that become an open window for me or am I still at the stage of desiring? We constantly feel that we should be spending more time in prayer but for the distractions of life. The pandemic has simplified our time; have we grown deeper in prayer and dependance in God as we struggle with all the changes and uncertainties that these exceptional times have imposed on us?

We are spending even more time with our spouse and our family. Do we take the opportunity to make up for all the times we have neglected them? Amid the uncertainties and the stress that comes with it, our family is watching. Do we give in to the stress or, by example, run to the beckoning arms of God?



**"Now that worship is no more physical, have I drifted further away since there is no need for personal engagement? Or it has sharpened my focus on worship and led me to a much greater appreciation of the intentional act of worship?"**



The world sees a global pandemic. We, as children of God, see instead a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for growth. Growing in prayer; in faith; in desperate dependence in the Providence of God; in greater awareness of what it means to love the neighbor. In the realisation of an overwhelming sense of gratitude of God's grace in our lives.

This once-in-a-lifetime event can bring the best out of us or the deepest sense of helplessness. It is a joy that I see so many acts of kindness, compassion, commitment and solidarity among us in BLC. There is much that God wants to do in and through us during these exceptional times. Are we up for it?

God is our vinedresser, we are the branches. We are being pruned so that we may bear even more fruit. The moment of pruning is often dominated by pain and fears but be comforted that the pain and the fears are not the end, they are a necessary transition to fruitfulness. The same mandate given to Abraham, is given also to us – to “be a blessing”. That when the world looks at us, they see Christ and give thanks to the Father.

But let us never forget that this journey of once-in-a-lifetime cannot be made alone; it must be made in the presence of God, with the grace of God, and resting in the faithfulness of His presence. “Abide in me, and I you.”

This is a once-in-a-lifetime event; it is also a once-in-a-lifetime moment of choice we can choose to make a difference in the life of others and for God's eternal intention for our lives. When the pandemic comes to an end, let us look back and with joy, see the hands of God in and through our lives in those exceptional times because we have an exceptional God.

“And Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
The trump shall resound, and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul!”

May the Lord grant us the grace to look backward with amazement, to look forward with the anticipation of faith, and to continue our journey with joy because we are loved by an ever-loving, ever-faithful God. That, is enough.



by SueAnn

I would say there's been a lot of changes over the years I've been at BLC. While I can't remember my feelings throughout, currently I do feel a little more distant compared to when I was a child. It's probably due to several factors, one of them being my focus on studies. School assignments, university applications, and other personal projects have definitely taken up a lot of my time. Other than that, there are not many people I relate to in church, to be honest. A lot of the times, most members of the youth groups I participated in were either older or younger than me. I join normal service like the adults but I'm still really young compared to them, so I don't really feel comfortable mixing in with their conversations. I don't think it's a bad thing though, it's a natural progression of growing up. Struggling a little bit with identity before finding a comfortable zone is normal to me.

Church camps were definitely the highlight of my younger years, it was like an adventure! Plus, I used to hang out a lot with Darlene and Charis, so church camp was even more of an excuse to get into shenanigans with them. Unfortunately, my excitement for these events slowly diminished over the years, due to reasons previously mentioned. I may not see them the same way I did as a kid, but I really appreciate the fond memories church camps have given me. That being said, I enjoyed the virtual church camp that was held in September! It was a lot shorter than physical camps, but in a way, I prefer that format presently as a young adult.



Reflections

by SueAnn

MUSTARDSEED 2021



I'm excited to learn more things, meet new people, and make more art that I'm proud of! I've grown a lot as a person these past few years, and will hopefully continue to do so as I move forward in life. ^-^"

Later on, I started feeling disconnected with the other kids in church, but I was preoccupied with school projects so it didn't bother me much. Academia had a huge impact on the shift in my priorities, and I had trouble deciding where to go after SPM, as it felt like my choice would define my future success and path in life. After settling on the Western Australian Certificate of Education (WACE), I focused primarily on that. For some reason I was really stressed throughout the course, especially at the start, but I think it worked out in the end. I did get a nice ATAR score (the WACE grading system) for my efforts, and now I'm preparing for university. I'll be taking the Bachelor of Design in Architecture course at the University of Sydney starting February next year. Not sure if borders will be open then, but I'm crossing my fingers!



Design in Architecture course at the University of Sydney



Our heartiest CONGRATULATIONS to all BLCians as you celebrate BLC's 21st Anniversary!

Guat and I joined the BLC family in January 2016 after I retired as a pastor in 2015. Prior to that we ministered in two non-Lutheran churches for many years. The choice of BLC was after much prayer and soul searching. But we are thankful that the Lord guided us to this church. A few contributing factors led us in this decision. First of all, the pastoral heart and leadership of Pastor Sivin gave us a very good impression of how and where the church would be going. Even though he was teaching full-time in STM, Sivin's heart was very much for the members of BLC. Because he was very involved with communities of other faiths, we thought that BLC would take on a different perspective of being engaged with other faith-based communities as well. We found this particularly enriching when people of other faiths were welcome to dialogue and discuss issues with BLC members, as Sivin encouraged them to do so.

The other factor was the vibrancy of the Council members who are all ordinary lay leaders. They are young but have a deep love for the Lord as reflected in their great compassion, passion and willingness to serve. This was evident especially when Sivin had to move to Geneva to serve in the Lutheran World Federation (LWF). The Council members were not discouraged by the loss of Sivin. Instead they were ever willing to rise up to the occasion to move the church forward. They are also a very talented bunch. This can be seen during the pandemic lockdown when they came up with a creative and wonderful online worship format. They also have a passion to care for the next generation.

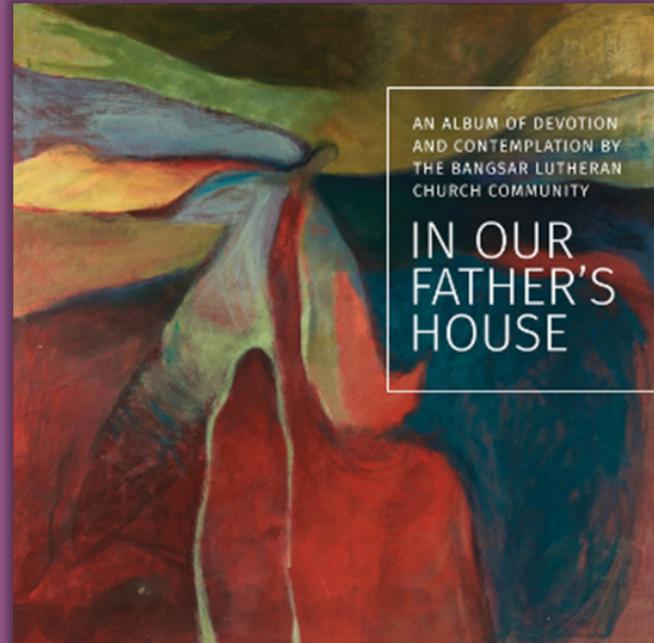
Even though Sivin has left for Geneva, the Lord still blesses the church with pastors like Pastor Thomas Low and Pastor Takeshi who are men of God, biblically saturated and full of experience. BLC is also blessed with people who are social activists for Christ, counselors, missionaries, pastors, social workers, etc. So, there is always a great potential for growth.

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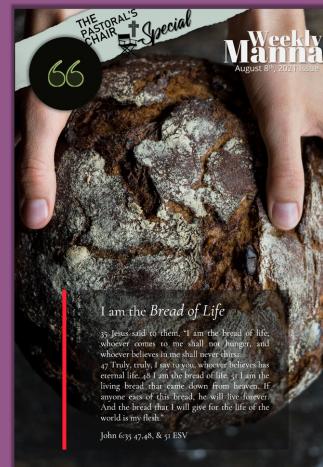


Guat and I were in BLC from January 2016 to March 2020, when we emigrated to Sydney, Australia. We were blessed by BLC in many ways. One of these was acceptance. The members readily accepted us despite the age gap between ourselves and many of them. They regarded us as long-time friends, as if they had known us for many years even though they were new to us. Together with Sivin, they respected our desire to have our space and a good rest from our burnout after many years of ministry. To this extent, BLC can be a sanctuary for those who are burnt out, wounded, disillusioned and needing a place for healing and restoration.

BLC is endowed with people of creativity. Their creativity is expressed with a gentle and beautiful touch of love. One example will be the production of the “*Album of Devotion and Contemplation: In Our Father’s House.*” This was prepared in 2019 but was produced in late 2020 because of the MCO. Its purpose is to inspire those within and outside BLC to draw closer to the Lord in times of uncertainty and suffering. Recently, through its creativity the church has been encouraged by a group of writers with their constant flow of edifying messages. At the same time, the musicians and the audio/video technicians challenge the church through its Tiktok that “God has work for us to do.” This is not to forget the “*Weekly Manna*” and “*Pendek Prayers*” which are also meant for BLCians to continue fighting the good fight of faith.



Album of Devotion and Contemplation: In Our Father’s House.”



Bi-weekly *Weekly Manna* Issues



Pendek Prayers on Facebook



BLC is made up of people from various racial, cultural and educational backgrounds. It has also attracted a number of internationals. What is interesting about this diversity is that BLCians have learned how to intermingle well. There is a sense of identity as one body.

BLC is made up of people from various racial, cultural and educational backgrounds. It has also attracted a number of internationals. What is interesting about this diversity is that BLCians have learned how to intermingle well. There is a sense of identity as one body. The bonding among the members is strong. For example, during the pandemic lockdowns, BLCians still faithfully worship online together. For the recent online day camp on September 16, more than 90 adults and 30 youths signed up. Some of the internationals who have moved back to their own countries still stay in touch and one of them joined the September 16 camp from overseas.

BLCians can depend on each other for support in time of need. When a member stood for justice and was invited by the authorities for questioning, in addition to praying for that member, some BLCians were among those who accompanied that member to meet with the authorities. Pastoral care for one another is intentional even though it is done in a quiet and an unassuming way. For instance, some BLCians took all the pains to help a sister during her treatment in a hospital for at least two months. There are others who ensure that an elderly member's needs are taken care of. Another sister with illness has been visited even by regular phone calls because of the pandemic.

That's not to forget the WEW (*Women Encouraging Women*) and the MEM (*Men Encouraging Men*) who have done a great job in rendering support and pastoral care for the sisters and brothers in the church. Recently, the “*Adult Caregiver Support*” group was set up to encourage BLC caregivers with parents, spouses, relatives or friends with ageing challenges and illnesses.

Life Groups are a source of bonding and building of strong relationships in BLC. Guat and I have very fond memories of the Life Group we were attached to. Our weekly Bible study was full of fun and with lots of interaction, examining with eagerness the Word of God in order to be more Christ-like and to keep in step with the Holy Spirit. This mutual encouragement and support reflect the genuine love of Christ that we have for one another.

So now, after its 21 years in existence, our prayer for BLC is that it will continue to be the beacon of faith, hope and love to each of its members and to others outside the church.

*May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all (2 Cor. 13:14).*

Yours truly in Christ,  
Guat & Siew Woh

31st October, 2021



“We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us. And our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son, Jesus Christ.”

1 John 1:3

Our heartfelt congratulations on BLC's 21st Anniversary!

The first time Vicky and I visited BLC was when I was a STM intern in 2005. We were young and did not know much about the Bible and pastoral training. But BLC members really supported us. On Saturdays, we joined Life Groups. We learnt the Bible and had wonderful fellowship with the members in the groups. We stayed at Ps Sivin's house on Saturday nights. Ps Sivin and May Chin took care of us so well. I learnt how to be a faithful pastor as well as a faithful father from Ps Sivin. Vicky also learnt how to be a faithful wife from May Chin.

They have been great role models for us. On Sundays, after Sunday Services, we had wonderful (*makan*) fellowship with BLC members such as Chin Hor and Moh Foong. They know many nice restaurants in Malaysia. We learnt many Malaysian cultures as well as Malaysian foods from them. We also learnt how faithful Malaysian Christians were. We really thank God for the wonderful Christians in BLC. Even now, during the pandemic, BLC members serve God and people around us faithfully.

Vicky and I continue to pray that God bless BLC members and use them in His mighty hands.

by

*Pr. Takeshi & Vicky*

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FOR  
UNTO US  
A CHILD  
IS BORN

## 20 years' journey with BLC

by Ling Ling & Kock Sheng

We will always remember those days when we congregated at Ps Sivin and May Chin's house on Jalan Utara (Chin Hor has pictures of Eze – a little toddler then, mesmerized by Sivin's guitar). We were down to the very basic, but those were precious moments shared as a 'congregation'.

The birth of The Father's House was another highlight for us all as we saw how this once-upon-a-time abandoned bungalow house was transformed into a modest, no-shoes, sit-around-round-tables church to one with such a cool timber ceiling as it is today. On a similar parallel is the rich fellowship that we share with one another as we move along the timeline with the migration (both ways) of various church members – sending off Ps Sivin and family, first to Norway, then to Geneva; Ps Takeshi and Vicky blessing us in our early days before they had Caleb, and back now with 3 kids; and the other pastors who have graciously led us in between. Ps Augustin came and blessed our congregation for a few years.

We can never thank Ps Siew Woh enough for his guidance and help in strengthening our ties as members, his emphasis on training the leaders to provide pastoral care to the congregation. Grateful to now have Ps Thomas and Ps Takeshi to continue to foster greater bonds through Life Groups and bible studies.



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Other highlights include Church Camps, which brought about refreshing perspectives and timely reminders to keep us in check. Not forgetting the opportunity to be involved in social concerns and justice such as the Peace Project, Reading Project in nearby schools and other activities for social justice.

It is obvious that food was the thing that brought us together and we had many precious moments of fellowship from food-sharing events like Mooncake Festival, Easter, Christmas, etc.

There were many precious moments spent together with the children as well. Apart from performances during Easter and Christmas, we circulated *the Weekly Dagger* – the kids' newsletter – which was an effort to keep them with their parents during sermon by getting them to write or draw what they learnt during service or anything funny during the week that they wished to share.

Also remembering Uncle Long. In his own quiet way, he was an encouragement to the kids in particular.

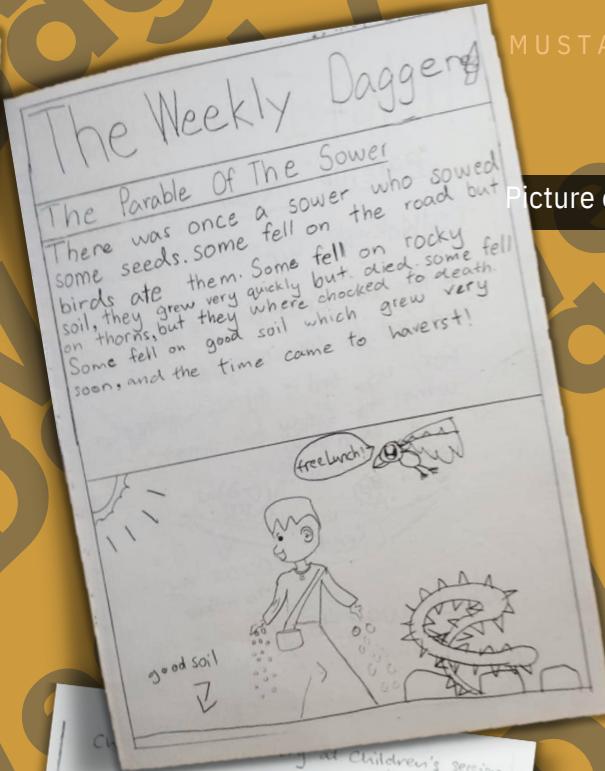
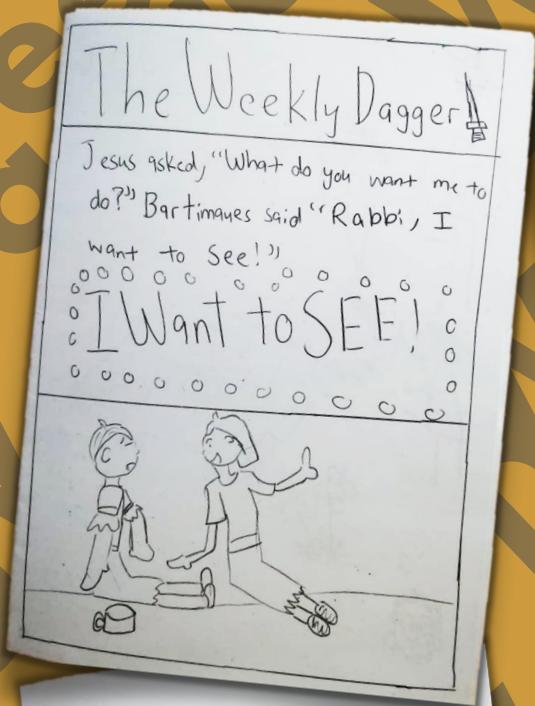
BLC has been basically the bigger family to us all these years. Our hope is to continue to support and grow BLC and serve the community faithfully together.



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Picture of Weekly Dagger works:

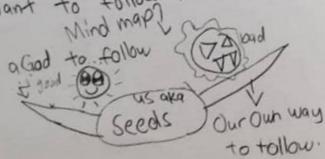


- Contributors :
- Faith Foo
- Peace Foo

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# What I think of the parable "The Sower and the Seeds".

I think we are nothing but creations of God, and God is also a guide for us, and it depends whether we want to follow him or not.



Which way to go?

By: Eze

I heard this interesting riddle last night.....

“What is greater than God,  
The rich cannot have it,  
But the poor have it,  
And if you have it,  
you will <sup>ahh</sup> ~~die~~ <sup>not live</sup>!!!!”

⊗ The answer can be found in the next issue of the Weekly Dagger!

Picture of Weekly Dagger works:



The blind man said Rabbi, I want to see.!!



By: Darlene



By: Sue Ann

Contributors :

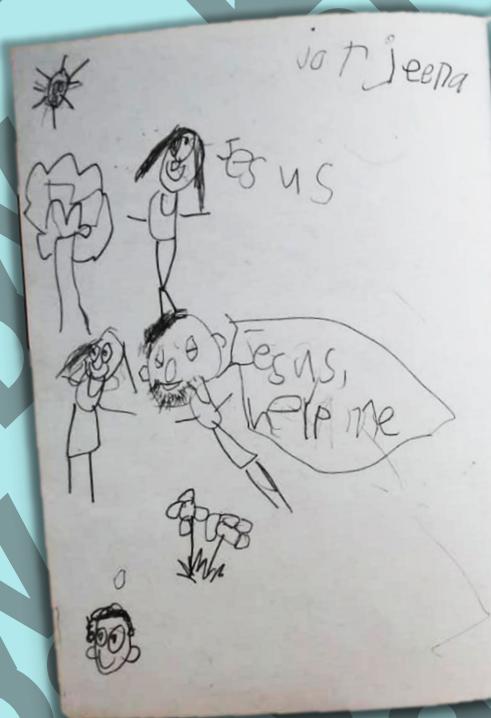
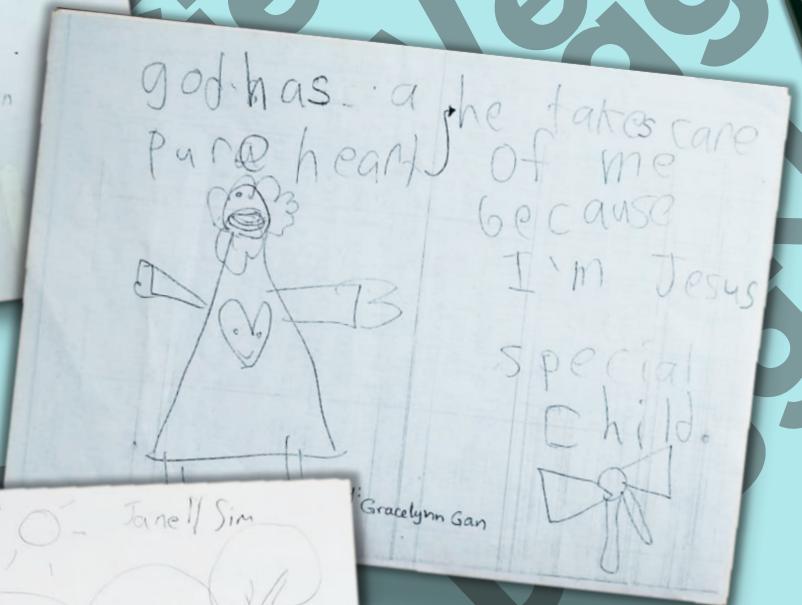
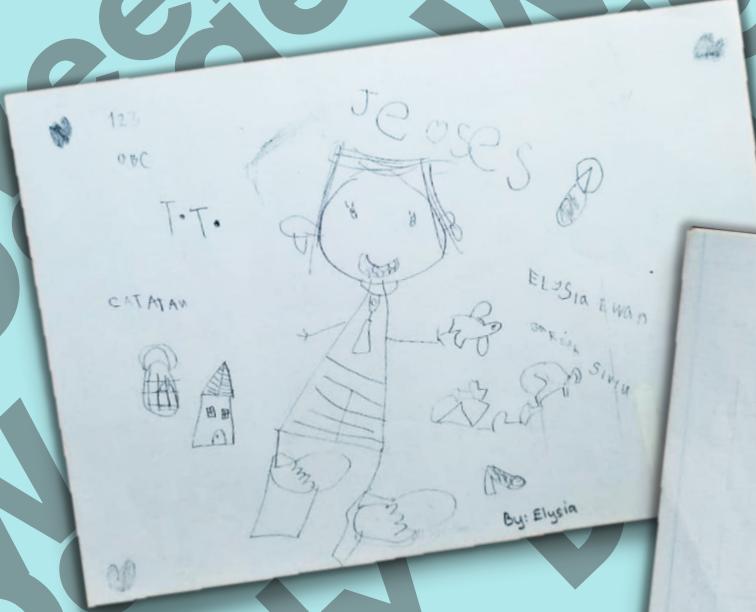
Ezekiel

Sue Ann

Darlene

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- Contributors :
- Elysia
  - Gracelynn Gan
  - Jorjeena

Picture of Weekly Dagger works:

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by Benson Ting  
& Ee Lyn

Describing their journey with BLC  
in the past +20/15/10/5 years

## Recent 5 Years (2016 to 2021)



**Benson Ting (Ben):** The past 5 years for me have been rather “colourful” as far as my journey with BLC is concerned, mainly due to the various pastoral care transitions we have experienced. Nonetheless, God is great and we are just so blessed with leaders who are not only gifted, but most of all put Him first. In terms of my personal walk with God, I would want to think that these were the periods where healing and restoration took place and I am glad there is a safe place called BLC where not only is everyone welcomed but, also, God’s personal touch is real.



17 Installation of Council Members (2016)

The Ting's family portrait



**Ee Lyn (Lyn):** In these last 5 years, I have witnessed how the LORD faithfully grew the BLC community, not only in terms of numbers but also maturing our faith – especially the last 2 years as we braved through the Covid pandemic. It was also 5 years ago that I started serving in the council, helping out in the Worship and Community ministries. I thank God for the opportunity to serve the LORD alongside dedicated leaders and supportive friends and family members in BLC. In 2016, the LORD called a few of us to embark on a new chapter in starting the *WEW (Women Encouraging Women)* group. I’ve been so blessed by the ladies’ journey with the LORD and the friendships we built along that journey. Also, it was a joy to see many who stepped up to the call to serve the LORD, including our Youth. We are so thankful that BLC has not only been a home to me and Ben but also to our children – to grow in faith and take baby steps to serve the LORD. God is good, throughout the last 20 years, and all the time!

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## Recent 10 Years (2011 to 2015)



**(Ben):** Personally, I would term these periods as probably my lowest points, both in terms of my personal walk with God as well as from the standpoint of corporate worship in BLC. The struggles were real and I am just so glad that in all of the so-called “tough situations” I was put in, there were various members within BLC to whom I was able to reach out to accordingly, and be blessed by them greatly. I think, more often than not, we tend to neglect or even take for granted the friendships that we have amongst us in BLC until the day we truly experience the love, care, support and help we will ever need. It is indeed true what the Word says....

*“Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened” Matthew 7:7-8*



**(Lyn):** I thank God that I was able to resume serving in the Worship Ministry in 2011 and for the opportunity for Jorjee and Jacy to be serving alongside as scripture readers. It was during this period that I was hungry for more of God and the LORD met my deepest needs through the Life Group with Kock Sheng, Ling Ling, Karl, Kirsten, Keat Lim and Wan Ching. We, as a family, are still very grateful for their friendship, love, care and support.



Moving back into BLC, spring cleaning after Renovation



Council Members & Families get together (2016)



Ladies of WEW (2016)



BLC Celebration as caught on camera!

## Recent 15 Years (2006 to 2011)



**(Ben):** I can't really recall much from these few years except for the fact that BLC had lots of babies, toddlers and young parents. One thing I always treasure about BLC is its warm and so-called safe environment for both old and young Christ followers, even those who are new in their walk with God. Often taken for granted, I somehow feel that this unique environment in BLC provides not only a sanctuary for those who seek to grow in God at their comfortable pace but also a great place for the lost, hurt and struggling in experiencing God's healing without feeling the extreme pressure of expectations, outlook, rituals, practices, etc – whereby all can truly come as they are. This, to me, is indeed one of the great treasures of BLC which we should cherish greatly: being always a safe place for everyone.



**(Lyn):** Life was rather topsy-turvy during these years as we had just started our family. The girls were young and I was struggling between work and family. I thank God for the BLC family support, especially from all the mothers, guiding me through the thick and thin of motherhood with all the advice, tips and experiences. From a career standpoint, it was also the time that I started my own business venture, leaving the corporate world. I thank God for His grace and the BLC family for their support, encouragement and prayers. I knew back then that I could also count on this family of mine!



BLC's Baby Booming Days



Jorjee's Baptism (2007)



Jacy's Baptism (2009)



BLC Birthday Celebration!

## Recent 20 Years (2000 to 2006)



**(Ben):** IAs I pondered at how my Christian faith has been for the past 20 years, I recalled having to church-hop every Sunday after coming over to KL from Sarawak. And being a rather conservative Christian, it's indeed not easy to settle into a new church. The day came when my better half and I (girlfriend back then) decided to take the bus and head out to Jalan Genting Klang to visit Christ Lutheran Church (CLC), giving it a try since I was rather certain I had yet to find a church in which I was comfortable (my better half, on the other hand, adapts faster than me, hence this is more about me!)

We were warmly greeted by both Ps Sivin Kit and May Chin. Fast forward: We joined their Life Group, and fast forward further, Ps Sivin met us up for some mamak catchup and invited us to consider journeying with him in starting a new church. Boom... we started meeting at Ps Sivin's house in PJ (the site of the old Luther Centre currently) for our Sunday worship and guess what – BLC was born not long after that and we slowly transitioned to our current BLC premises.

Back then, we removed our shoes and sat either on the floor or in groups around tables. We used to have the type of old overhead projector that's used with transparencies, and our air-conditioning system was very much the older type of split unit system (you can imagine how noisy it would be when all units were turned on, not forgetting that we had a lot of rooms back then in BLC). Those were the years filled with great memories and looking back, I am just so glad that my better half and I decided to “hop on the bus” and take up this journey with BLC, for we have been blessed so greatly indeed!



BLC Worship Service



Lepaking (hanging-out) after Church Service

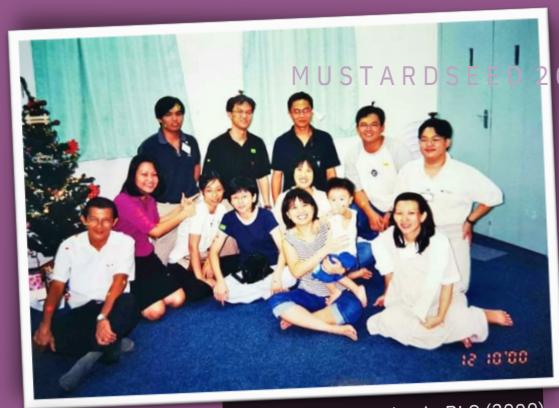
# Reflections

## Recent 20 Years (2000 to 2006)



**(Lyn):** Just to add on, back then, there were only a handful of us – some single and available (Chin Hor), some single and not available (John and Su Shen, Raymond and Yuen Theng), with only very few married couples, namely, Sivin and May Chin, Auntie and Uncle Long (May Chin’s parents), our dear friends Kock Sheng and Ling Ling, Wai Kin and Hooi Ann, Daniel and Su Ling, and only one baby in BLC – my darling godson Ezekiel, to whom we were made godparents.

Soon after that, in 2003, Sivin conducted our marriage ceremony and we celebrated our wedding with BLC friends and family. Also within those few years, God blessed the church with more children. Back then, being young and energetic, we would lepak for hours right after our Life Group on Friday nights and our worship practice on Saturday evenings. Those are some of the fondest memories I have of BLC.



Christmas Celebration in BLC (2000)



1st Christmas Eve Worship Service in BLC (2000)

BBQ Party  
in BLC (2001)



1st Council  
Members (2001)





### Your Highs & Lows?

**(Ben):** *Highs* were mainly the excitement, fear, anxieties, etc, of not knowing what to expect after we decided to be part of the BLC church-planting group. *Lows*, probably the usual and common stuff of experiencing spiritual stagnancy especially when you are so comfortable – and too comfortable – with the environment in BLC (a comfortable environment can be a two-edged sword).



**(Lyn):** *Highs* – the life transformation that took place in our lives, the girls who got to experience and encounter God, and all the wonderful friendships formed in BLC. *Lows* – all the uncertainties moving forward, be it in business, church or ministry. Nevertheless, I thank God as this would give me the opportunity to witness His goodness, faithfulness and sovereignty.



Seminar conducted by Pastor Augustin

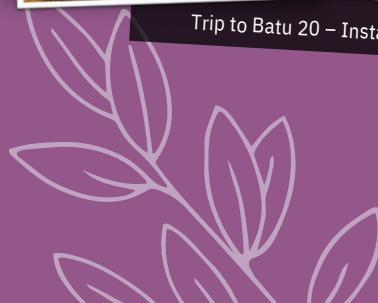


### Points of interest from your life map (remember the exercise that Ps Sivin did with us at camp)

**(Lyn):** God blessing us with two lovely sweethearts (2005 and 2008), His continuous grace and provision in our lives and businesses (2009), moving to a new place (2014), WEW (2016), and a life-transforming experience through BSF (2017).



Trip to Batu 20 – Installation of Solar Panel



## Moving Forward & Beyond



### What's happening in your life now and how BLC can continue to support you?

**(Ben):** Pray that all BLCians would be covered by His precious blood in their spiritual journey with Him; that their households would be protected against the pandemic; those employed to keep their jobs; those in business to navigate strongly and favourably making ends meet through His grace; the sick to receive healing; and – not forgetting – protection, grace and strength for all our church leaders.



**(Lyn):** Pray that I'll continue to fix my eyes on the LORD through all the storms in my life, especially during these trying periods, and always to be reminded that we have each other and that God is with us.

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Also pray that we, as a family, especially our two sweethearts (Jorjee and Jacy), will continue to grow in faith and serve God according to His great purposes and as He leads.

## Hopes and prayers for the future?



**(Ben) :** Life would slowly return to normal, that our Nation would be blessed with great Leaders, and that the pandemic would be under control.



**(Lyn) :** Pray that we as a family, together with the BLC family, will brave through this storm and carry on stronger by the grace of God. Pray that we will all experience a deeper relationship and life-transforming journey with Him. And together, always to be reminded of our BLC theme for 2021,

Hebrew 12:1-2a: Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.



# Regathering: Hopes and Wishes

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near (Hebrews 10:23-25 ESV).

In the past two years, the pandemic situation has forcibly disconnected us physically through the enforcement of various restrictions. However, thanks to God's empowerment and the dedication and faithfulness of BLC's tireless community who are gifted in various areas from media to music, ministry of helps and many willing hearts under the leadership of Rev. Thomas Low (now Bishop Thomas), we continued to remain connected via Zoom and other means of communication to encourage one another and stir up each other for love and good works.

However, there is no replacement for being in the physical presence of another human being, and physical face to face connections.

We asked some BLCians what they looked forward to when we regather. Here are some of their thoughts

“The role of the church is to bring people together.”

# Rosey

## GREETERS

### 1. What do you look forward to most when we return to in-person services at The Father's House?

Being able to see people's faces and see how everyone has grown, especially the kids. Some were babies when the pandemic started and they're now *full-blown toddlers!*

### 2. What do you look forward to most about getting back to your altar deco duties?

I went from having 1 clingy kid to 2 clingy kids, which makes private toilet time even more precious now. :)



### 1. What do you look forward to most when we return to in-person services at The Father's House?

I also double up as visualiser for the worship team, and I am most looking forward to chatting with my fellow sound engineer on our little elevated perch at the back of the hall. Isaac, Chin Hor, Nelson, and Jason are true professionals (and great d\_\_\_\_\_ing buddies!) but my absolute favourite to work with is Chee Kah, because we are at about the same level of short attention span. (Disclaimer: Jason is also a very good friend, but he is more serious about sermon note-taking than I am.)

I miss the creative control BLC gives me, and how people are kind about my creations. I can't hope to beat Allie in sheer artistry, or Mei Li in perfectly wrought symbolism, but my little claim to fame is 10-minute foraging – flowers in bloom (for which I have to thank Suzanne, our gardening queen), or last week's bouquet (all my fellow altar-decorators who take the job more seriously than I do), or longkang wildflowers. I know Chin Hor has his eye on me though, so I should find it within myself to do better than 10-minute foraging, for punctuality's sake.

### 2. In the past few months when we couldn't meet at The Father's House, is there anything new or different you've undertaken (job, business, personal challenges, additional family members, hobbies, etc) you'd be willing to share with the BLC family?

I had a baby! Her name is Sylvia Mae, and her sister Sophia Lin is both a proud cheche and a long-suffering attention-ceder. By the time this newsletter is printed, I would also have started a new job at Mercy Malaysia, where I would still be a pharmacist.





ALTAR DECO

Mei Li

**1. What do you look forward to most when we return to in-person services at The Father's House?**

Watching members of our worship-leading music ensemble exercise their gifts during rehearsal/service. Feeling the joy as different instruments and creative visions come together to carry people into fellowship and worship. Also, Tammy and Suzanne's respective *fried beehoon*. And Renu's amazing chutneys. All that food in the pantry, really, hahaha. Prepared/bought and hauled in with love.

**2. What do you look forward to most about getting back to your altar deco duties?**

Enjoying what fellow altar decorators do each week, whether it's the miniature mud-baby garland in Elaine's arrangement, the understated beauty of Lois' curations, or Joy's vibrant colours and charming accents. Watching Allie reclad the lightbox cross at each change of liturgical season. Trying to find altar cloths that are the right colour and look like they might have been ironed at least \*sometime\* in the past 5 years.

**3. In the past few months when we couldn't meet at The Father's House, is there anything new or different you've undertaken (job, business, personal challenges, additional family members, hobbies, etc) you'd be willing to share with the BLC family?**

In January, my grandma left her home in Penang and moved in with us after my uncle, her son, passed away. In June, she took a fall and we learned how to care for her while she was bed-bound. We're thankful she can now walk with support and I've learnt a few tricks for dressing a person with limited mobility.

I missed the challenge of wrestling with altar decor. No kidding! I always struggle because I have no experience with cut flowers; there never were any at home while I was growing up. So I bought this *Domestika* online course on flower arrangement during our hiatus, just to feed on the inspiration:

<https://www.domestika.org/en/courses/1342-design-and-creation-of-floral-compositions>

Also, a mail-order pet – a fighting fish who arrived in a box via PosLaju after a 4-day trip from Penang. He's gorgeous.



MUSTARDSEED 2021

“Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel ... For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government shall be upon his shoulder, and his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”

– Isaiah 7:14b ,9:6 ESV



BANGSAR  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

The  
Father's  
House



Our prayer is that BLC becomes a Missional Church where a community of Christ-Followers who are integrated in a network of smaller missional communities will be equipped and empowered by the Spirit to live the Christian Faith, share the Good news of God's Grace and demonstrate God's unconditional love, captured by the vision to serve as a catalyst for spiritual and social change in our personal spheres of influence Bangsar, and beyond.

John 20:21

“As the  
Father has  
sent me I am  
sending you”

Our Calling  
To invite people  
into the Reign of  
God, encourage  
them to grow in  
the Body of  
Christ, equip  
them to be  
sent into the  
World in the  
power of the  
Spirit.

THE  
FATHER'S  
HOUSE  
WELCOMES YOU

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**BLC 21ST  
ANNIVERSARY  
EDITION**

BANGSAR LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Mustard seed*