

Covenant Times

DNA of Christ's Disciple 23 Aug 2020

Hi Everyone!

Many of you have been journeying with **LiNah Koh** ever since she was diagnosed with cancer. She has been journaling all her pain as well as her blessings. And much as she could have wallowed in her pain, she has often than not, chose to rejoice in the many blessings poured down from heaven. Below is only a snippet of the blessings she has experienced, because they will continue to flow as long as she chooses to see God's goodness.

God is good. When I was diagnosed with stage 3 rectal cancer, I was glad it wasn't terminal. I am given a chance to live longer with advance treatment.

God is good. He expedited all my appointments with the specialists, did my CT scan and MRI and consulted the surgeon etc within 1 week in TTSH, a public hospital. Many claimed that it usually takes months just for a simple appointment. It is definitely God's connection in expediting mine.

God is good during my radiotherapy, he filled me with the Holy Spirit and gave me wisdom to witness to Uncle Tan in Hokkien. It is my first time witnessing in dialect. Never thought that I could still be useful for Him in sickness.

God is good. After the initial stage of treatment comprising radiotherapy and oral chemotherapy, the bracket of one of my huge windows broke during my rest week just before surgery. Thank God He alerted me before anything drastic happened. I ended up getting all the window brackets replaced before my scheduled surgery. The clearing and cleaning were laborious tasks. I was mad at God then but now, am thankful that I obeyed and got it done. Only God knows that Covid-19 will render it impossible for me to fix anything now.

God is good. I emerged from 10 hours of surgery, safe and sound. There were complications necessitating another surgeon to be called in to assist Dr. Tay, my designated God-sent surgeon.

Welcome!

During this unusual time when we cannot come together for worship, we can still be part of a worshipping community. We invite you to join us at our pre-recorded worship service at this website <https://www.cplink.org.sg/>. We hope you can also connect with our Life Groups. Please contact one of our Pastoral Staff if you like to join a Life Group. We are still meeting and connecting through various digital platforms.

We want to grow in Christlikeness through devotion and delight in God, nurturing devotion and delight in God, nurturing relationships and intentionally multiplying disciplemakers.

God is good. Though I couldn't see my family after my 10-hour surgery, I was able to encourage a fellow sis-in-Christ from China upon waking up after 2 hours in the recovery room. She was the nurse in attendance. On awakening from general anaesthesia (GA), God directed me to tell her that Jesus loves her a lot in Mandarin. I wrestled with Him initially but I did it anyway, sounding like a crazy drunken woman as I was still under the effects of GA. I was weak and drowsy but He gave me the strength to “sayang” His own child. I thank God I obeyed.

God is good. Though I couldn't see my family in the high dependency ward that night, He sent me a God-fearing Catholic nurse, Regina, to attend to me. We talked about God and she was gentle like an angel. There were also comforting assurances from the nurses who took care of me.

God is good. Due to Covid-19, no caregiver was allowed to stay overnight. However, thanks to God's perfect plan in planting Dana there for her internship (a year before) coupled with her outstanding work ethics, we gained favour from God and men as an exception was made for my husband to stay with me for two nights to give me emotional support. I emerged from surgery with at least 8 tubes sticking out of my body, and both legs wrapped in a massaging machine to prevent atrophy due to prolonged surgery.

God is good. When I was attacked late at night by images of death while alone in the hospital, God provided technology, my mobile phone, for me to tune into worship songs to drive the darkness away. For once, I appreciated technology and became a little more IT savvy.

God is good. When I felt trapped like a bird in a cage (the hospital), I cried out to God and told Him I couldn't take it anymore (Covid-19 resulted in lots of restrictions). On day 6 of my hospital stay, even though I still had 3 drains and stoma, I tearfully requested Dr Tay for early discharge and to my surprise, he acceded. It's definitely God's intervention. He saw me through phase 2 of cancer treatment and I recovered well.

God is good. In phase 3 of my cancer treatment, chemo was a very difficult journey for me and my family. The 6 cycles of chemotherapy lasted more than 4 months. Each cycle had its own challenges. There were lots of trial and error. Thank God for my two medically qualified older kids, supported by my youngest, who became my personal physiotherapist and psychiatrist, and Gordon, who helmed the family while I endured the chemotherapy. He gave us wisdom to troubleshoot my condition. Thank God for all the cheerleaders and prayer warriors around us. Through acts of kindness such as prayers, podcasts, food (home-cooked or bought), flowers, home-made cards, calls, kids' drawings, videos, bible verses and sermons etc., we survived this gruelling phase.

God is good. During the circuit breaker, other than my cancer treatment, I faced additional external stresses like Covid-19 and how it would affect Gordon's aviation job. Furthermore, my two older young adults are frontline medical staff. Matthias would have been requested by his former Guards unit to develop a system for the foreign workers living in Bedok camp had it not been for the fact that he chose to take care of me. He sent my family out while other families were made to stay home. Without God, my family and I would not be able to get through this. God gave me His assurance again and again that He is my family's shepherd and that He will continue to take care of everything for me.

He promised me thru Psalms 23 and Isaiah 58:8. He has never failed nor forsaken us. He is faithful. His mercies are new every morning. He is still taking care of us as I have not reached the finish line yet. The hardship continues. I will update in due course.

God is good for giving me my husband, Gordon, my children, Zachary, Dana and Matthias who all choose to walk closely with God instead of abandoning Him during this difficult stage. The close walk with God, by His grace, allows us to fight fearlessly and punch forward as we tread this difficult road together.

There is a lot that I can share about our encounter with God during this period but it will fill a whole book. The battle for us is not over yet. I hope that my sharing will encourage you in whatever situation you are in. The biggest takeaway for me is we need not have to put on a front and act brave before God. We can go to Him with our raw feelings, whether anger, depression, fear, frustration, disappointment or discouragement etc. He accepts us in all conditions because He understands since Christ has Himself suffered. We can pray our tears and heartache. Work things out with Him. Keep moving forward with Him by your side. Choose God and live. Thank you everyone who has come alongside my family and is still doing so. God bless and protect you all!

Our God is good!

Mrs Koh, Linah [or Sim Li Nah]

We wish sister LiNah:

'Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.' - 1 Samuel 25:6 NASB

~ **Ps Lai Mui Fong** ~

The Book of Joshua

GIVING

Kindly take note of the separate bank accounts for Tithing and Offering.

TITHING



Please key in your tithing number at the reference section. If you are unsure of or do not a tithing number, you may drop us an email at the church website, under “Request” tab and we will get back to you.

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: 025-905375-8

Account name: Covenant Presbyterian Church - Tith

UEN no. **T12SS0164DTTH**

OFFERING



Please key in only the alphabet at the reference section as follows :

“E” for English Service

“C” for Chinese Service

“SL” for Sri Lankan Service

INTERNET TRANSFER

DBS Current Account: 033-016873-0

Account name: Covenant Presbyterian Church

UEN no. **T12SS0164D**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✝ Our heartiest congratulations to Rev Dr Henry Wong being re-elected as Associate Minister as well as our 3 newly elected Deacons: Aruneepon Ng, Jasmine Tan and Jimmy Tay.
- ✝ The Missions Offerings for Sep will be raising \$8,400 for **Harum Bible Translation Project**. Please prayerfully prepare to give generously to this project on Sunday Online Service on **6 Sep '20** where more details on how to go about giving for this mission will be shown.

A DAY ALONE WITH THE LORD RETREAT

Join us for the next
A Day Alone with the Lord
Retreat on **29th Aug**. Please scan
this QR code to register here for
one or more retreats on Aug 29,
Sep 26, Oct 31, Nov 28, Dec 26.



Your Retreat Facilitators: Rev Keith & Mui Fong Lai



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Pr Lionel Neo
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Sri Lankan Service

Rev Christina Ong / Ps Susantha

Chinese Service

Rev Abel Lee / Pr Chin Yoke Fen

CareWorks Community Services

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Gladiolus Place

Michelle Tan

Ministry Team Leaders

Creche

Kong Soh Lian

Children

Pr Lionel Neo

Youth and Young Adult (YaYA)

Rev Abel Lee (ad interim)

Aruneepon Ng

Audrey Wong

Young Working Adult & Young Married

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Adults & Seniors

Rev Keith Lai/ Ps Lai Mui Fong

Hospitality

Jenny Ho

Worship

Ryan Kong

Missions

Ho Chung Tat

Prayer

Rev Dr Henry Wong

Freedom & Wholeness

Alfred & Jenny Koay

GB / BB

Pr Lionel Neo

Chinese Seniors Alpha Course

Pr Chin Yoke Fen

Day Alone with the Lord

Ps Lai Mui Fong