



Our Quest Towards Registration

The Household of Faith started with the intention to be a legally registered church complying to the laws of Singapore. This is the reason we choose an alternate Biblical name, Household of Faith instead of the common "Church of Christ" as we were informed by the former Bishan congregation that the Registrar of Societies is not accepting the name, "Church of Christ" as there are too many registered under that name.

We were on track towards our quest for registration until the pandemic curtailed our progress.

In our first year, we record an average attendance of 10-20 persons. On the second year, the number was 20-30 persons. We were experiencing 30-40 attendance as we approached our third year. Our vision was that by our fourth year, with a 40-50 core, we will apply for registration.

Congregations with a core of 50 are self-sustaining, easy to manage and have the critical mass for the next level of growth, provided it does not stagnate at this number.

Man proposes, God disposes

While we were confident and feeling good about the consistent growth, the Lord evidently had other plans in mind for the Household of Faith.

A few months before our 3rd Anniversary, the pandemic hit us all. When we were not allowed to assemble, like many churches, we live stream our worship, first from the home of the Poons and then to my office at Pasir Panjang.

After more than a year, we were able to conduct in-person worship. By this time, most of us

have been so used to live stream worship, that it is difficult to get back to regular assembly, especially with the restrictions and options available.

Current Situation

This month, the Household of Faith will celebrate our 4th Anniversary. Our attendance is back to 10-20 persons, averaging just 15 each week. We are still not able to hold Bible classes or Care team sessions, nor allowed to fellowship or provide potluck.

Clearly, we have lost our critical core for registration. Will there be enough men who are regular every Sunday willing to serve in the committee for registration?

The advantage in registering is to safeguard the congregation when it has grown larger, and allow us as a legal society to rent meeting places and other options.


What do You think?

I am interested to hear the views of all members. Please share with me on Sundays or text me. This is an important issue, and I would like to hear from every stakeholder.

Henry Kong, Minister




Goh Tik 7 July
Goh Chee Keong 12 July
Goh Ah Moey 15 July
Poon Philemon 21 July



Introduction

Hebrews 4:12 - *For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart.*

1 Peter 1:22-23 - *Since you have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit in sincere love of the brethren, love one another fervently with a pure heart, having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever*



Every Morning

Introduction

Manna

Fill the mind


Wake up early

Take a photo and read when opportunity permits

Do not wait until evening

Make the difference in your day

John 6:58 *This is the bread which came down out of heaven-- not as our fathers ate the manna, and died. He who eats this bread will live forever."*



Every Night

Introduction
Every Morning

Before you sleep – last thing on your mind


Could be a part of your Bible reading schedule

Random passage or topic

Even listening to a sermon

Increase your reservoir of God's word

2 Peter 3:18 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.*



Introduction
Every Morning
Every Night

Special Courses

There are courses all over the internet


Also correspondence course

SIBI Classes that you can sit in

Even start a care group

All Free

Acts 17:11 *Now these were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of the mind, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.*



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Introduction
Every Morning
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Special Courses

Bible Projects

Do you have any Bible projects in 2021?


If you aim at nothing – you will hit the bull's-eye every time

Some have already started reading the Bible through this year

How about topical Bibles, Christian books or new Bible translations

Do not waste a year without becoming wiser in the word

2 Timothy 2:15 *Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth.*



Introduction
Every Morning
Every Night
Special Courses
Bible Projects

Bible Retreat

By yourself, family or other Christians


Get away from routine, over a weekend to be with God and His word

Set a theme or focus on a book

Include prayer and even fasting

Come back refreshed and renewed

Matthew 14:13 *Now when Jesus heard this, he withdrew from there in a boat, to a deserted place apart. When the multitudes heard it, they followed him on foot from the cities.*



Introduction
Every Morning
Every Night
Special Courses
Bible Projects
Bible Retreat

Conclusion

In your hands – the greatest power in the world

Many have nice Bibles that are left on the shelf

Before the year is over – utilize the power

Better than anything you can do, any investment you can make

Romans 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God for salvation for everyone who believes; for the Jew first, and also for the Greek.*

What the world needs is Christians living by the power of the word of God



11th July 2021

Reaching Out to Our Elderly Family Members



The Household of Faith recently conducted the funeral of David's father, brother Goh Ah Moey. He had been ill for a long time, enduring much pain. On the morning of Tuesday 29th June, he graduated to glory, donning on a new body that is perfect and without any pain.

When the Household of Faith moved to the Metropolitan YMCA at Stevens Road, David and his brother made the effort to take their father to worship.

We all got to know brother Goh and extended the right hand of fellowship. Brothers Paul Poon, David and sister Phai patiently interpreted for him during the Care team and worship.

He was alert and receptive, eager to learn and looked forward to Sunday so that he could participate in worship. After several months, he decided to give himself to the Lord in baptism.



When the pandemic hit, brother Goh became weaker and needed intensive medical care. His daughter-in-law provided him with tender loving care 24/7.

During his last days, he was in and out of the hospital. Whenever possible, he would asked to be wheeled out to the bus stop, to watch

the world go by. When it was time for him to return, he would always ask for a few minutes more.

We have come to love this gentle old man and appreciate his simple faith. When we asked him how he was doing, he would always respond with how the Lord was blessing and enabling him.

Do we have elderly family members?

While there is a lot to be said for all of us to remember our Creator in the days of our youth, it is imperative that we reach out to our elderly family members before it is too late. They do not have many years left, and we need to do something before it is too late.

All we need to do is to make the effort to take them to worship, and enjoy dinner together. They may have already seen your faith in action and are waiting for you to share it with them. Or they may be lonely and look forward to spending some time with you and your family.


Like David, we can reach out to our elderly family members and help them come to an understanding of the love of Jesus. I have often wondered how the late brother Goh would face his failing health without having the grace of Jesus to lean on. Reach out to your elderly family members before it is too late!



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Introduction

1 Corinthians 3:1 *Brothers, I couldn't speak to you as to spiritual, but as to fleshly, as to babies in Christ.*

10-year old Christian or 1-year old Christian x 10?

Watchman Nee (Chinese evangelist in the early 1900's): Too many baby Christians in our churches

Compared them to physical babies

See what the Bible says



Introduction

1 Not Weaned

Hebrews 5:12-14 *For when by reason of the time you ought to be teachers, you again need to have someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God. You have come to need milk, and not solid food. For everyone who lives on milk is not experienced in the word of righteousness, for he is a baby.*

So many Christians do not know how to use the Bible, so they do not feel competent to teach

How? - 2 Timothy 2:15 *Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who doesn't need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth.*



Introduction
1 Not weaned

2 Always Learning

2 Timothy 3:7 *always learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Many Christians enjoy religious materials in books and internet

Some hooked on sermon videos

Good, but must come to a point of having enough knowledge of truth to share

Romans 10:8 *But what does it say? "The word is near you, in your mouth, and in your heart;" that is, the word of faith, which we preach:*



Introduction
1 Not weaned
2 Always learning

3 Carnal

1 Corinthians 3:3 *for you are still fleshly. For insofar as there is jealousy, strife, and factions among you, aren't you fleshly, and don't you walk in the ways of men?*

As full-time minister all my life, witnessed jealousy, strife and divisions - these, the Bible says, are the work of baby Christians

Colossians 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your heart to the Lord.*



Introduction
1 Not weaned
2 Always learning
3 Carnal

4 Careless Worship

Matthew 15:8 *These people draw near to me with their mouth, And honour me with their lips; But their heart is far from me.*

Baby Christians treat worship as without importance, are not regular

They do not prepare for worship nor dress or behave appropriately

1 Corinthians 14:15 *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also. I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*



Introduction
1 Not weaned
2 Always learning
3 Carnal
4 Careless Worship

5 Able to Teach

2 Timothy 2:24 *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient*

Babies expect to be spoon-fed all the time

They have never ever thought of teaching another

So important, because elders must be apt to teach. So must every Christian

2 Timothy 2:24 *And the servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient*



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1 Not weaned
2 Always learning
3 Carnal
4 Careless Worship
5 Able to teach

Conclusion

1 John 2:1 *My little children, I write these things to you so that you may not sin. If anyone sins, we have a Counselor with the Father, Jesus Christ, the righteous.*

1 John 2:14 *I have written to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God remains in you, and you have overcome the evil one.*

1 John 2:13 *I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning.*





When brother Alfred approached me with a proposal to start a new congregation, I was thinking of a small house church. However, when I made public my intention, the level of interest resulted in a proper church planting.

Good Start

With the use of social media, the nascent work piqued the interest of many people around the world. Many asked for our bulletins and powerpoints. A new website was created, offering videos of our sermons as well.

We were on track to achieve our targeted core attendance of 50 when the pandemic struck. We were not permitted to assemble, but continued live streaming, first from the home of the Poons and later at my office in Pasir Panjang.

Opportunity to Assemble

After more than a year, we were able to conduct in-person worship. By this time, many had grown so used to virtual worships, that it was difficult to resume regular assembly, especially with the restrictions and limited options available.

Current Situation

This month, the Household of Faith will celebrate our 4th Anniversary. Our attendance is back to 10-20 persons, averaging just 15 each week. We are still not able to hold Bible classes or Care team sessions, nor are we allowed to linger behind to catch up or enjoy potluck fellowship.

Whither HoF?

What lies ahead for the Household of Faith in

our fourth Anniversary? Here are some possibilities:

1. Should we go ahead to register our church as planned even with such a small core? The advantage in registering is to safeguard the congregation when it has grown larger, and allow us as a legal society to rent meeting places.
2. We can return to our first meeting place, the Salvation Army at Hillview. It is less than half the cost of the Metropolitan YMCA, and may be more accessible to some members as there is an MRT station right in front of it.

If we move out of my office to a hall that is large enough to accommodate everyone, we ought to stop live streaming. It was necessary when restrictions were in place prohibiting live worship, but it has created a situation where members do not feel that they have to be present every Sunday, and still 'worship' in the comfort of their homes.

What do You think?

I am interested in the views of all members. Please them share with me on Sunday or text me. This is an important issue, and I would like to hear from every stakeholder.

Henry Kong, Minister



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FAITH

Introduction

We see a wide spectrum of faith in the church today

Especially during the pandemic, many are drifting away from worship

Tonight, we ask in a sincere and positive way – **how genuine is your faith?**

Is your faith by the road? *Mark 4:15 These are the ones by the road, where the word is sown; and when they have heard, immediately Satan comes, and takes away the word which has been sown in them.*

FAITH

Introduction

Is your faith rocky? *Mark 4:16-17 These in like manner are those who are sown on the rocky places, who, when they have heard the word, immediately receive it with joy. They have no root in themselves, but are short-lived. When oppression or persecution arises because of the word, immediately they stumble.*

Is your faith amongst thorns? *Mark 4:18-19 Others are those who are sown among the thorns. These are those who have heard the word, and the cares of this age, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful.*

Or is your faith on good standing?

FAITH

Introduction

Or is your faith on good standing? *Mark 4:20 These are those which were sown on the good ground: such as hear the word, and accept it, and bear fruit, some thirty times, some sixty times, and some one hundred times."*

No one knows the answer better than you

Here's 5 things that the Bible says about genuine faith

Check and see if it matches your status



Introduction

1. Genuine Faith is Powerful

Matthew 17:20-21 *He said to them, "Because of your unbelief. For most assuredly I tell you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, you will tell this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you. But this kind doesn't go out except by prayer and fasting."*

Contrast between the faith of the disciples and Christ

If you just have a grain of genuine faith, you can move mountains



Introduction 1. Powerful

2. Genuine Faith Trusts God

Hebrews 11:11 *By faith, even Sarah herself received power to conceive, and she bore a child when she was past age, since she counted him faithful who had promised.*

Exodus 14:13 *Moses said to the people, "Don't be afraid. Stand still, and see the salvation of God, which he will work for you today: for the Egyptians whom you have seen today, you shall never see them again."*



Introduction 1. Powerful 2. Trusts God

3. Genuine Faith Submits

Job 1:21-22 *He said, "Naked I came out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. Yahweh gave, and Yahweh has taken away. Blessed be the name of Yahweh." In all this, Job did not sin, nor charge God with wrongdoing.*

2 Corinthians 12:7-9 *By reason of the exceeding greatness of the revelations, that I should not be exalted excessively, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, that I should not be exalted excessively.*

Concerning this thing, I begged the Lord three times that it might depart from me. He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Most gladly therefore I will rather glory in my weaknesses, that the power of Christ may rest on me.

FAITH

Introduction

1. Powerful

2. Trusts God

3. Submits

4. Genuine Faith Lets God

Genesis 50:19-20 *Joseph said to them, "Don't be afraid, for am I in the place of God? As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save many people alive."*

Romans 12:19 *Don't seek revenge yourselves, beloved, but give place to God's wrath. For it is written, "Vengeance belongs to me; I will repay, says the Lord."*

FAITH

Introduction

1. Powerful

2. Trusts God

3. Submits

4. Let Go & Let God

5. Genuine Faith is Steadfast

Hebrews 11:7 *By faith, Noah, being warned about things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his house, through which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith.*

1 Corinthians 15:58 *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

FAITH

Introduction

1. Powerful

2. Trusts God

3. Submits

4. Let Go & Let God

5. Steadfast

Conclusion

Hebrews 11:1-6 *Now faith is assurance of things hoped for, proof of things not seen... Without faith it is impossible to be well pleasing to him, for he who comes to God must believe that he exists, and that he is a rewarder of those who seek him.*

James 2:22-24 *You see that faith worked with his works, and by works faith was perfected; and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, "Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him as righteousness;" and he was called the friend of God. You see then that by works, a man is justified, and not only by faith.*



We are now starting our 5th year as a congregation. The Lord has blessed us, come pandemic or not with uninterrupted worship for 213 worships!

Critical Core

The Lord has given us a critical core of members and supporters that has stayed together during the past 4 years, in spite of the pandemic and having to move five times.

I believe that we are stronger than ever, ready for any and all challenges ahead.

Good Team

The reason why we have emerged stronger is due to the team that has supported HoF through these years. We were not only able to live stream, keep up with our publications, website and social media, but come up with ways to meet needs like visits, delivery of communion items, conducting funerals and in-person worship.

The Road Ahead

Taking it a step at a time, after the worst of the pandemic is over, on our 4th anniversary, I have announced to the men of the church that I would welcome anyone who wants to preach on Sundays.

The past 2 years have been hectic, unpredictable and uncertain, so I have taken upon myself to preach every week. Now that more restrictions are relaxed, and as we celebrated our 4th anniversary, it is a good time for other members to fill the pulpit also.

Whither HoF?

A lot of what will take place on the road ahead will depend on the government lifting restrictions and life with Covid-19 as part of a 'new normal'.

We look forward to renting a hall large enough for our members, supporters and visitors; restoring Bible class, Care teams and potluck. Hopefully it will be in time for our Missions Sunday in December.

What do You think?

The live streaming worship is a double-edged sword. It was useful during the lockdown but it has created a lack of seriousness when it comes to worship, even though in-person worship has been allowed for many months,


When we move into a hall that can accommodate all of us with room to grow, we will terminate live streaming. This will no longer provide anyone with the excuse not to be regular every Sunday as the Bible teaches.

We thank God for our 4th anniversary and we enter our fifth year with confidence and a committed membership that is willing and raring to do better.

**Henry Kong,
Minister**





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Introduction

- Feedback on expository sermons
- Longer theme
- Much to learn from 1 John
- Easy to memorize





The Apostle John

Introduction


John was one of Jesus Christ's 12 apostles, and a prominent leader in the early Christian church.

Along with James and Peter, John was one of the "inner circle".

John is the author of five books of the Bible: the Gospel of John, the epistles 1 John, 2 John, and 3 John, and the Book of Revelation

He is the only disciple who died of old age, banished to the island of Patmos

So who was the Apostle John?



A Pillar of the Church

Introduction
The Apostle John

John was one of the first disciples Jesus called Matthew 4:21–22: *Going on from there, he saw two other brothers, James son of Zebedee and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee, preparing their nets. Jesus called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father and followed him.*

A pillar of the early Christian church Galatians 2:7–9: *On the contrary, they recognized that I had been entrusted with the task of preaching the gospel to the uncircumcised... James, Cephas and John, those esteemed as pillars, gave me and Barnabas the right hand of fellowship when they recognized the grace given to me.*

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The Apostle John
A Pillar

Sons of Thunder

Sons of thunder
Mark 3:16-19: *These are the twelve he appointed: Simon (to whom he gave the name Peter), James son of Zebedee and his brother John (to them he gave the name which means "sons of thunder")*

James and John were brothers who may have had bad tempers - Luke 9:54: *Lord, do you want us to call fire down from heaven to destroy them?*

BTW Jesus did not, and rebuked them

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Sons of Thunder

The Inner Circle

Jesus raises Jairus' daughter from the dead - Mark 5:37

Jesus takes Peter, James, and John up to a mountaintop, where he is transfigured - Matthew 17:1–11, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36

On the night of his betrayal, Jesus takes Peter, James, and John with him to pray - Matthew 26:36–46

John 19:26: *Therefore when Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing there, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold your son!"*

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The Inner Circle


The one whom Jesus Loves

5 references in John - John 13:23, John 19:26, John 20:2, John 21:7, and John 21:20

John 13:23-24: *One of them, the disciple whom Jesus loved, was reclining next to him. Simon Peter motioned to this disciple and said, 'Ask him which one he means.' Leaning back against Jesus, he asked him, 'Lord, who is it?'*

John 20:3-4: *Therefore Peter and the other disciple went out, and they went toward the tomb. They both ran together. The other disciple outran Peter, and came to the tomb first.*

Journey with
JOHN
Exposition on the
Epistle of 1 John



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The Inner Circle


The one whom
Jesus loves

Lived to a ripe old age

John 21:20–24: *Peter turned and saw that the disciple whom Jesus loved was following them. (This was the one who had leaned back against Jesus at the supper and had said, “Lord, who is going to betray you?”) When Peter saw him, he asked, “Lord, what about him?”*

Jesus answered, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you? You must follow me.” Because of this, the rumor spread among the believers that this disciple would not die. But Jesus did not say that he would not die; he only said, “If I want him to remain alive until I return, what is that to you?”

Journey with
JOHN
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The one whom
Jesus loves

Ripe old age


In a Nutshell




According to church tradition, John is “the disciple whom Jesus loved” in *The Gospel of John*.




Jesus gives John and his brother James the nickname “Sons of Thunder” (John 3:17). The Bible doesn’t tell us where this nickname comes from, but it could refer to their speech, temper, or ambition.




John is one of the three disciples Jesus keeps closest. Peter and James are the others. (Mark 5:37; Matthew 4:7–12; 26:37)



John is considered a “pillar” in the church, along with Peter and another James (Jesus’ brother). (Colossians 2:9)




John was a fisherman along with his brother James.



Before he died on the cross, Jesus asked John to take care of his mother, Mary.

Journey with
JOHN
Exposition on the
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In a Nutshell








According to church tradition, John is the only apostle who died of natural causes. (The rest were martyred.)




Prominent leaders in the early church claimed to learn directly from John, including the bishops Papias of Smyrna and Ignatius of Antioch.

John writes the most

John has written more of the New Testament than any other member of the twelve (Matthew’s next). According to tradition, John wrote:



That’s just under 5% of the Bible. In fact, only Luke and Paul write more of the New Testament than John.



According to church tradition, John ministered in Ephesus, and was exiled to the Isle of Patmos for his faith. Traditions vary on how the apostle John died (Revelation 1:9).
